

**COMMUNICATION AND USE OF GRINDR IN HIV AWARENESS AMONG
COLLEGE STUDENTS IN A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN METRO MANILA**

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**Faculty of Information and Communication Studies
University of the Philippines
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OPEN UNIVERSITY**

MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION

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**COMMUNICATION AND USE OF GRINDR IN HIV AWARENESS AMONG
COLLEGE STUDENTS IN A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN METRO MANILA**

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ACCEPTANCE PAGE

This thesis titled "**Communication and Use of Grindr in HIV Awareness among College Students in a Private University in Metro Manila**" prepared and submitted by **WALTER HUYO YUDELMO** is hereby accepted by the Faculty of Information and Communication Studies, University of the Philippines Open University, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree Master of Development Communication.

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to

+ Dr. EVELYN D. TOMAMBO
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for teaching me how to embrace Development Communication

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ABSTRACT

YUDELMO, WALTER HUYO (2018). Communication and Use of Grindr in HIV Awareness among College Students in a Private University in Metro Manila, Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of the Philippines Open University, Faculty of Information and Communication Studies.

Thesis Adviser: DR. BENJAMINA PAULA GONZALEZ-FLOR

There were one hundred college students in a private university in Metro Manila surveyed through developed and self-developed research instruments to determine their HIV awareness through Grindr, a gay dating application. Additional self-developed research instrument was used for key informants, which answers supported results on communication and use of Grindr by the respondents. Presumed on the New Media Theory by Vogt (2017), the study determined the correlation between the independent variables (communication and use of Grindr, HIV awareness, Grindr engagements, HIV infection consciousness, expert's view on HIV awareness) and the dependent variable (contents for the proposed NSTP subject). On the other hand, mediating variables on socio-demographic characteristics of respondents (age, year level, course, sexual role, relationship status, purpose in using Grindr, Grindr activities) also used the theory to test its relevancy. Relationships were tested and were set at 0.05 levels of significance. One way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test the significance of the means and t-test as well as z-test for independent means as intra test. The results generated from the study revealed that college students were not fully aware of the HIV infection until infected with the virus. The study simply interpreted the result that Grindr, as gay dating applications is not focusing on HIV, but heavily on gay dating. Though, HIV awareness is visible in Grindr, the attitudes and values of college students subscribing Grindr implies high risk of getting HIV infection.

COMMUNICATION AND USE OF GRINDR IN HIV AWARENESS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS IN A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN METRO MANILA

Walter Huyo Yudelmo

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Rationale and Background of the Study

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development (UN-SDG, 2016). Significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality. Major progress has been made on increasing access to clean water and sanitation, reducing malaria, tuberculosis, polio and the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

However, more efforts are needed to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different persistent and emerging health issues (www.un.org). In realm, the epidemic of HIV in the world including the Philippines undermines social and economic development and affects all levels of society: national, community, family and individual including learning institutions.

In an HIV-aware society, people in families, in communities, in organizations, and in educational institutions in particular as well as in policy making bodies can act from different strengths. In particular, to acknowledge in the reality of HIV, by building a capacity to respond positively, reduce vulnerability to risk, allow everyone to live out their full potential, and share experiences with others. Every community and institution has the capacity to become HIV competent, but can also be struggling. Facilitation teams can then stimulate and support it by using the HIV competence process especially if subjects like health communication in the curriculum will be included. Thus, in this study, the National Service Training Program (NSTP) is the best subject where all students can gain some practical knowledge about HIV and AIDS.

The Philippines posted in June 2016 the highest number of HIV cases ever reported since 1984, data from the Department of Health shows. There were 841 newly diagnosed HIV cases reported to the HIV/AIDS and Art Registry of the Philippines (HARP) with the male affected at 94%. Unfortunately, more than a quarter belong to the 15 to 24 year age bracket with 226 cases (www.doh.gov.ph).

Different researchers across the globe have conducted many studies to determine whether the threat of HIV infection causes college students to alter risky behaviors which have concluded that increased knowledge of HIV alone does not always result in a positive behavior change (StateUniversity.com,

2011). Due to this importance, education on HIV is an integral part of a school curriculum, which may partially and indirectly help reduce the incidence of HIV among young people.

Factors such as biological and psychological can put college students at risk for HIV infection. Studies have shown that despite biological factors like sexual relationships, drug injection, blood transfusion, there are some underlying psychological factors that make one vulnerable to HIV infection such as anxiety, stress, depression, lack of communication, posttraumatic stress disorder, negative effect, and domestic problems (Singh and Saini, 2007).

More recently, public health research has documented the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among men who reported using Grindr (Redina, H. J. et. al., (2014). Thus, results of this research aim to increase awareness among respondents through knowing their competency about HIV and helping them make informed and sound choices in using Grindr dating application.

Statement of the Problem

As the cases of HIV occurrence among the youth in the Philippines is becoming to be alarming, academic institutions has a role to play. While contracting HIV/AIDS is personal, gaining awareness and clear understanding of the disease can help people decide on how to protect them from the infection. In the Philippines, talking about sex at home is still a taboo. Using

digital technologies to educate the youth could be a potent communication tool since the topic is quite sensitive to talk about.

Moreover, this study was intended to define the need for HIV awareness from the point of view of respondents communicating through and using Grindr as basis in introducing a Health Communication subject in NSTP. In general, the study sought to answer the question: how do college students in a private university in Metro Manila communicate and use Grindr for HIV awareness?

Specifically, the study attempted to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of HIV awareness among respondents when classified into respondent-related factors?
2. What specific HIV knowledge respondents acquire during Grindr activities?
3. What is the objective, mutual, and emotional fulfillment that respondents search for to accomplish when engaging in Grindr use?
4. How does Grindr communicate to the consciousness of the college students regarding HIV infection that they can acquire through sexual activities? and
5. What particular health communication topic/s on HIV can be proposed through NSTP in a private university in Metro Manila?

Objectives of the Study

This study aimed to find out how college students in a private university in Metro Manila communicate and use Grindr for HIV awareness.

Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Determine the level of HIV awareness among respondents when classified into respondent-related factors;
2. Identify what HIV knowledge respondents acquire during Grindr activities;
3. Find out the objective, mutual, and emotional fulfilment that respondents search for to accomplish when engaging in Grindr use;
4. Determine how Grindr communicate to the consciousness of the college students regarding HIV infection that they can acquire through sexual activities? and
5. Identify particular health communication topic/s on HIV that can be proposed through NSTP in a private university in Metro Manila.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

Due to research ethics consideration and as approved by the Office of the University Research Center, this research was only limited to non-appearance of the researcher to respondents in facilitating the research inquiry. Thus, preventing the facilitation of focus group discussion or focus interview for triangulation.

Only answered research instruments with qualified Grindr users based from respondents' profile was used as deemed most relevant and salient in finding out the sincerity of responses.

However, eight key informants who were experts in different fields were interviewed. Their responses were analyzed to further understand the phenomenon being investigated.

Significance of the Study

Results of the study could guide students on how to behave in their college environment that somehow offers great opportunity for HIV high-risk behaviors, including unsafe sex and multiple partners. This study will help students not only to become knowledgeable but also be more conscious about contracting HIV. Furthermore, results of the study would be able to guide students to demonstrate competency in HIV-related knowledge, skills, and attitudes during periodic assessment with direct observation of the student performing authentic tasks.

For faculty and administrators of a private university, study results could guide them to become aware of their responsibility, authority, and accountability for their students' as well as their own competency regarding HIV at the community level. This study would also foster awareness on the responsibility of developing exercises to address the required objectives and

creating assessment tools to demonstrate that their students have met the HIV competency objectives.

This study could also aid in the development of a competency-based curriculum in HIV by including it in NSTP, advocating curricula that are responsive to changes and will strengthen competencies of students towards understanding HIV.

Government institutions like the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Health (DOH), and the National Telecommunications Commission could gain some theoretical and practical knowledge on the importance of social media as a tool for creating and recreating texts pertaining to sexual behavior of college students. Also, the study could help them evaluate some of their projects together with other agencies attached to them so that they can create sound and helpful programs that could save the lives of many young people on the danger of HIV/AIDS.

On the other hand, Development Communication practitioners could profile the importance of social media to be used in health communication education. They could further address the epidemic of HIV that may help the government in making the people aware about the health problems through relevant projects and initiatives.

Non-Government Organizations like the United Nations as well as other advocacy groups on HIV/AIDS, on the other, could explore studies with regard to the contribution of social media as a venue for sexual activities that leads to HIV/AIDS infection of people especially the young. Results of the study can be used as a springboard to analyze effects of access of applications like Grindr in acquiring the infection as well as the virus.

Findings of the study would also serve as a baseline data beneficial to future researchers who would aspire to work on the same topic and as basis for possible follow-up studies that would support the effectiveness of HIV competence among college students.

Chapter 2

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents the discussion about Grindr technology, review of related literature and studies that established the research gap and in developing the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of the study.

The Grindr Technology and HIV Awareness

Internet modernization had given a new media landscape particularly among bisexual men. Scholars had argued that since the world is extremely occupied by many activities and competition, gay men had turned to Internet to celebrate life and sexual preferences (Baams, L. et. al, 2011; Gudelunas, D., 2012; Raj, S., 2011).

Prior to the introduction of the Internet as well as people nearby applications, homosexuals were getting acquaintances through clubbing, parks and socialization. But of course, there are fallbacks with regard to these activities. One of those is being branded as “outed” (Groves, C. et. al., 2014).

Gray (2009) added in an observation that these physical spaces are just limited in the urban areas. Thus, the Internet had given a new wave to connect anonymously and get acquainted with the same sexual preference. Perhaps, this is the common reason why many scholars attempted to study gay and bisexual using the Internet and other people nearby application (PNA) technology for the purpose of pleasure.

In reality, notwithstanding the possibility for other research topics regarding health and communication, Bauermeister et. al. (2011) noted that the bulk of researches regarding gay men and the new technology focused on high risky sexual behaviors, resulting to the spread of HIV/AIDS. In addition, people get addicted to the pornographic content of the Internet.

As Grov et al. (2014) noted, in contrast to many technological advances of our time, many of the research questions remain stranded in the matrix of controlling human diseases. Therefore, there is a call to broaden the discussions on technological issues confronting social activities.

To put premium in the language of technological advancement, Tong and van de Wiele (2014) shared that Grindr, as gay dating application was developed and intentional purposely for men looking for men. It is obvious that Grindr connectivity shifted the ideas of face-to-face dating to face-to-screen dating.

The Grindr Technology

Toch and Levi (2012) stated that the technology of Grindr helps individual to screen and look for someone based on their personal preferences. Regardless of disclosure about one's personality, Grindr guides the user to personal attribute of the target individual.

In addition, Grindr gives users the capability to actually position partners using location-based technology. Grindr has the “show distance” characteristic that when activated indicates distance how close one is to other accessible Grindr users.

Gray (2009) furthered that in Grindr, that both online and offline attributes were often isolated from the other, effectively not including gay, bisexual and curious men from other purposive environments. Moreover, Tong and van de Wiele (2014) stated that both online and offline dating had given a new option of dating culture. Grindr as PNA had made gay men embraced technology in creating spaces of their choice through different virtual options.

The intention and ubiquity of Grindr put forward an exceptional blend of offline and online features. Grindr itself advertises its capability to look for other men who are nearby and suggesting that the gay dating applications can provide fundamental and substantial access to other users alongside with geographic and sequential closeness. As a result, users may expect to achieve particular outcomes from its utilization (Brown, M., 2013).

For a universal thinking, PNAs are intended to bring together each user’s physical location only available from a smart phone. The distance and the geography are then transmitted to a controlled server, allowing other Grindr users to get the locations and glimpse who is nearby to them (Toch, E. and Levi, I., 2013).

As technology amazed many of its users according to purpose and satisfaction, adding to its magical attractiveness, many studies and literature evolved in investigating the importance of PNA's to humankind. Specifically, many publishers both online and print featured the overpowering enthusiasm of Grindr users towards meeting-up resulting to sexual contacts (Wortham, J., 2013).

HIV on Grindr Technology

Tong and van de Wiele (2014) illustrated that beforehand, the dissimilarity between online and offline acquaintances are uncovered in determining HIV/AIDS together with other health related problems. Though it is given that the risk of human contact through technology is in its hype, cases recorded related to human infection is alarming.

As Crooks (2013) elaborated that although Grindr is somewhat new to gays and homosexuals, the way it has so far compared to print, television, and other health communication literature definitely recalls many personification of gay life as them in the middle-of-the-road, extremely sexualized or unsafe to their human condition.

While Crooks (2013) assessment of the current activities found in Grindr seems convincing, research has indeed revealed that users regularly turn to Grindr to accomplish their sexual desires (Rice, E. et. al., 2013).

Landovitz (2013) added that also, many researchers found that Grindr user's motivation is subscribing to the gay dating application is obvious. These activities are friendship, dating, or monogamous romantic relationship initiation among others.

Bumgarner (2012) explained that despite of these researches and reports, scholars can make a note of that there is still a lack of understanding as to why men use PNA technology in searching for somebody as well as to the kind of motivations for undertaking so. On one hand, even as Grindr is unquestionably popular, its announced reason for being one of the trending gay dating applications in the world remains knowingly unclear.

HIV as a Universal Health Problem

The United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS) had position its goals, targets and platforms in the occasion of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on Ending AIDS. Countries including the Philippines have signified to a historic and pressing agenda to expedite initiatives in controlling the health problem of HIV/AIDS by 2030. The Declaration reviewed by member countries provides a universal command to fast-track the HIV/AIDS in the next five years. UN admitted that global health leaders known that no country has ended the epidemic and that no country can find enough funding in responding to HIV/AIDS (www.unaids.org).

Obviously, research has shown that a huge percentage of young people around the globe are not worried about becoming contaminated with HIV virus (The Kaiser Family Foundation, 2010). As such, young adults needed to be educated about the impact of HIV/AIDS to their lives for them to get enough competencies. Moreover, the role of every family is important in educating the youth to safeguard themselves from any health problems.

In the Philippines, as data from the news revealed, those infected with HIV are getting younger and younger. More young people are engaging into sex either by preference or by force as they fall into the trap of poverty or lack of knowledge. In addition, the presence of social media activities as part of daily living had contributed to and continues to contribute to being curious to many sexual journey and experiences.

It can be noted that the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) cited the Philippines to have a minimal cases of HIV/AIDS related infection, but it is one of only seven countries globally where the figure of new diagnosed cases has increased by more than 25% as recorded from the year 2001 to 2009. An alarming data that the Philippine government needed to address accordingly. UNICEF added that the infections are principally concerted among young demographics with specific sexual risk activities like male-to-male sex, prostitution and needle sharing (www.unicef.org, retrieved 18 December 2018).

UNICEF in the report explained that the primary prevention of HIV infection for the identified populations has to start in teenage years mainly because HIV/AIDS are now being determined between 20 to 29 years old. On the typical scenario, the commencement to sexual activities and drugs is between the ages of 14 to 19. (www.unicef.org, retrieved 18 December 2018).

As the rate of HIV prevalence and epidemic continues in the Philippines and the rest of the world, and to evade national efforts in curbing the rise of newly diagnosed cases, obviously as reported on a daily basis in the media and social network site, scholars of development communication are tasked to create HIV competent communities within their respective spheres of influence.

Obviously, HIV/AIDS is widely recognized as a global health problem. It is also one of the most alarming challenges to human life and self-esteem, as well as to the helpful satisfaction of rights, economy and freedom of individual (Agency for Co-operation and Research Development, 2009).

HIV among Young Adults

In reality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approximate that one in every five hundred college students around the world is being infected with HIV/AIDS (StateUniversity.com, 2011). Investigation has shown that HIV infection progressed to AIDS more slowly when not treated at the early phase.

Singh and Saini (2007) confirmed that young people under the age of 25 are estimated to report for half of all new HIV infections in the entire world. An alarming report shared that with an average of two young people's being infected every hour of the day, indeed, HIV/AIDS is a serious global health problem. Currently, in the Philippines, an increased number of cases reported of having infected with HIV on a daily basis. A more worrying report indicates those diagnosed are getting younger and younger.

Leigh and Stall (2008) explained that both casual and chronic substance users are more likely to submit themselves in high-risk behaviors, such as unprotected sex, when they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Young adults who are exposed to sexual activities with multiple partners time after time and unaware of protected sex practices lead to human infection and in due course, HIV infection.

In the Philippines, data from HARP (2017) shows that reported HIV/AIDS transmission were sexual activities (777) with 89%, mostly among males having sex with males. Other reported cases were needle sharing among prohibited drug users and mother-to-child viral transfer. The growing population of HIV infection in the country has reached 34,999 cases since it was first recorded in 1984 with 27% coming from aged less than 15 years old until 24 years old (www.doh.gov.ph, retrieved 15 November 2017).

A mystified thinking based from the researches would tell us that though, college students appear to be very knowledgeable about HIV and AIDS, the increase of the infection is among their age group. In a relative view, global data indicated that 75-85% of heterosexual college students do not feel at risk for HIV infection (StateUniversity.com, 2011).

The Grindr Applications

Dating games in the present time have shifted and the presence of technology is advancing at an extremely fast phase. Human interaction brought by the media evolved from physical to virtual. Today, we have all the options to find the one we wanted and there are thousands of options to choose from (Manalansan, 2014).

Before, the knowledge of gayborhoods existed in many different forms and structures. Although in recent times, scholars noticed that a “post-gay” era in which the gayborhood’s strangeness as a “gay” social space is deteriorating (Bumgarner, B. A., 2012; Spring, A. L., 2013).

Spring (2013) shared that in the US, trends connecting within 2000 to 2010 data showed that gay male partners (87%) and lesbian women (93%) lived in an urbanized cities where isolation declined. Tong and van de Wiele (2014) avowed that the unification may signify greater tolerance, combination, or acceptance of homosexuality, but others have argued that this new post-gay era characterizes a fragmenting of the concept of gay neighbourhood.

In the Philippines, Fernandez (2013) confirmed that the days of pen pals and eyeballs can no longer be a fad. This is because of the role of technology that was introduced to Filipinos. These technologies made romance and dating getting real.

In relation with, Tan (2015) analyses that Grindr is the largest all-male social networking app that uses the smart mobile device's through a location-based services that show the guys nearest to the user. The gay dating application is being downloaded by 10 million users across the globe from the time it was introduced in 2009.

Moreover, on the record as Tan (2015) explained, there are more than 38 million messages transmitted and three million exchanged of photos daily. As of the time, there are five million enjoying Grindr in 192 countries.

Gan and Sanidad (2014) affirmed that Grindr had become more popular not only in the Philippines but across the globe since its function. It outnumbered other dating applications such as Tinder, OkCupid's, Hornet, Planet Romeo, and Crazy Blind Date to name a few.

Unlike Facebook and Twitter, Manalansan (2014) in her analysis added that Grindr has target users. These are men who are looking for other men and expedite the same sex dating. Grindr has the opportunity for its users to sort thousands of profile from people nearby. In addition, Grindr has a location

feature that makes it further easier to find your date. The gay dating applications had a character of one-stop shop for gay community.

Manalansan (2014) further added that in realm, most of the time, Grindr users skip the logical aspect of the one they are talking with and go directly to the physical meet-ups. In any case that the Grindr users are lucky, they might even trap into love and the romance begins.

Grindr among Male to Male Relationship

On HIV infection through Grindr dating, Manalansan (2014) states that indeed, there are there are high risks in online dating. Stories have been shared about people who deliberately spread HIV infection and it has been a widespread alarm among people on Grindr dating applications.

In a study regarding HIV acquired from Grindr use by Huang et. al. (2016), results showed that the app received 4,389 unique hits and 333 men requested the HIV test. Of those, 247 (74 percent) asked for the test by mail, 58 (17%) via a voucher and 28 (8 %) through the vending machine. An interesting result showed that 125 self-testers who subsequently took the survey, 74% reported having had at least one episode of anal intercourse without a condom in the prior three months, 29% had last been tested for HIV more than one year ago and 9 percent had never been tested. An alarming data shared that 56 participants reported their HIV test status, where two (4%) diagnosed with positive results.

It is obvious that many are using Grindr because of its geographic location scheme that increases visibility among gay circles. Moreover, the space allows the user to filter the profile of individual that they want to meet from virtual to physical one (Batiste, D. P., 2013). In this way, Grindr help users further locate the gay community that now exists within the areas.

The overwhelming popularity of gay dating application such as Grindr helps a sense of handiness and the fresh stories to tell, both good and disappointments (Gan and Sanidad, 2014).

The dangers and precautions in Grindr as well as other dating applications as Fernandez (2013) stated is absolutely visible. That is, many gays are using the apps to find a sex at a temporary pleasure as well as meeting up with all kinds of community. One does not be familiar with where they have been and what they have ended or if they have HIV infection by now.

As Manalansan (2014) stated, the presence of the Internet is only here to make dating more easily even before. That HIV infection was present even before Grindr was fashioned. After all, users need to understand that Grindr is just like other social media sites, but here, the market was identified for gays.

In the Philippines, Gan and Sanidad (2014) observed that the emotional analysis for every gay dating app shows overwhelming responses among Filipinos. The only exception Grindr has is that it targeted gay men.

Gay men, most of the times are purposely looking for instant sex from Grindr that leads to HIV virus.

In consonance with, Rice et. al. (2012) explained that Grindr was used by young men having sex with men (YMSM) for a range of explanations, and not solely for the reason of sex partner seeking. Others are using it for trading, marketing and community announcements. Overall those who use the gay dating applications exercise safer sex than that with partners met somewhere else.

Love and Lust of Online Gay Dating Application

Gan and Sanidad (2014) questioned Grindr if users enduring for love just got a whole thing simplified. They said that in the age of dating apps and online anecdote, the claim is that it has turn out to be much easier to score a relationship compared to that in the past. This simply shows that a new media and communication platform has been introduced by technology that in a long run, threatens one's life. Batiste (2013) noted that Grindr's prospective is to fulfil a human purpose. That is to look for a lifetime partner or an instant sex.

The module of the Grindr summarized a feeling that is full of confusion. And despite of its applications, the time frame of looking for someone just added to choose and pick scenarios. Many experts had predicted that dating applications like Grindr is simply attracting young generations for them to have a sense of community (Gan and Sanidad, 2014).

In a comprehensive analysis, Gan and Sanidad (2014) said that the main attraction of Grindr is a comparative straightforwardness. As opposite to traditional dating, a list of perfect candidates to be with is being delivered right in front of you through your smart phone.

Gan and Sanidad (2014) in their research revealed that sentiment related to “love” and “lust” per app has a negative higher implication for lust-related interactions compared to that of a higher positive sentiment for those that are related to finding true love from dating applications.

Studies make most researchers think that gay dating applications is getting absolute sheltered. Though, looking at how users feel about these gay dating applications in getting a one-night stand, as contrasting to finding true love showed a totally diverse representation.

With these, it seems like finding true love through a dating app like Grindr is more the exclusion than the ruling. Once more, hope abounds that many people are willing to invest in finding true love. The motive for this is quite obvious. That is whether on-camera or off-camera, love exists and can wait either through dating or actual encounter (Gan and Sanidad, 2014).

Filipino Young Adult using Grindr

Grindr has been in the Philippines for nearly a decade now. Philippine lifestyle and entertainment portals shared some stories of individuals and couples they reported that find date and love through Grindr.

Fernandez (2013) in a research revealed that Grindr is not just an instrument for finding enjoyment or sex. The study furthered that with an app like Grindr, users have to keep your mind open for different promise, diverse people, and unusual experiences.

In a traditional Filipino culture, Gan and Sanidad (2014) in a study added that many are attracted to the scheme of a speedy and easy matchmaking procedure. Grindr is extremely tempting as the possibility of getting your lifetime partner is just right in your finger tips.

In truth, Grindr offers a system to find somebody in both physical and virtual environments, which allows users to connect with other users in options. First, online presence is established through a personal profile which includes username, age, weight, height, reasons for using Grindr and a few things about oneself.

Second, physical presence is displayed by a particular location data. In this method, Grindr facilitates a mode of contact in which online messages are being initiated through and carries over to immediate physical, offline contact.

This is unlike other dating websites where the prospect of future physical interaction is a distant and has anticipated opportunity.

Finally, once a different user views your biographical sketch, your location as well as your distance from each other, then the dating game begin. And if you each other interesting as much as necessary, then your online dating had already served its purpose.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Sepkowitz (2001) medically reviewed that Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is the virus that causes what is called Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Medical literature showed that it has few or no symptoms up until 10 years or more sooner than symptoms of AIDS.

Sepkowitz (2001) added that during the initial infection of HIV, a person may experience a brief period of influenza-like sickness. It is being followed by a long-lasting period with no symptoms at all. As the illness progresses it interferes more and more with the immune system, making the person much more likely to get infections either of other related diseases, including those of opportunistic infections.

Commonly, the HIV virus is transmitted primarily via exposure to sexual intercourse, both anal and even oral sex, contaminated by blood transfusions, hypodermic needles, and from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding (Markowitz, Rom and Steven B, 2007).

However, bodily fluids such as saliva and tears do not transmit the HIV infection (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003). Prevention of the infection can be cure primarily through safe sex.

At present, medical experts stated that here is no cure or vaccine for HIV. However, there are antiretroviral treatments that can slow the course of the disease and may show the way to near-normal life anticipation. While this antiretroviral management reduces the danger of human death as well as complications from the disease, these medications are high-priced in developing countries and can be associated with side effects of the body and nerve systems. Research indicates that HIV virus is a zootic disease and was originated in west-central Africa in the early twentieth century (Sharp and Hahn, 2011).

On the other hand, AIDS was first recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1981. Also, HIV virus was recognized in the near beginning part of the decade (Gallo, Kilbourne-Brook and Coffey, 2012).

HIV Awareness as Health Communication Subject

At present time, young generations especially college students come into view to be very knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS virus. Information of HIV and safe sex practices appear to be greater among the young minds (StateUniversity.com, 2011).

Centers for Disease Control (2005) report noted that the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is among the college students. Young people are at determined high risk for the HIV virus. As mentioned, this risk is especially notable for youth. This fact defines the youth, or under a young people, as persons belonged to 13 to 24 years old.

In the Philippines, tertiary and technical education is offering the National Service Training Program (NSTP), a civic education and defense preparedness mandated program for students instituted by the Government of the Philippines on 23 January 2002. The conduction of NSTP is by virtue of Republic Act 9163 or "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001" ("RA No. 0163", Retrieved 10 March 2017).

The three NSTP Program components are Civic Welfare Training Service, Literacy Training Service and Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

The program component of Civic Welfare Training Service is designed to provide students with activities that contributes to the general welfare as well as the improvement of existence of the members of the society especially those that are developed to get better social wellbeing services ("RA No. 0163", Retrieved 10 March 2017).

Literacy Training Service is another program component which is intended to educate students in training literacy and numeracy skills to unprivileged as well as the out-of-school youths. The hope of the program

component is to continue the obtained knowledge on a peer interaction ("RA No. 0163", Retrieved 10 March 2017).

On the other hand, Reserve Officers' Training Corps program component is designed to provide military education and training for students to assemble them for countrywide defense attentiveness. The program also invites potential members of the Philippine defense group by showing them how military life is ("RA No. 0163", Retrieved 10 March 2017).

Also, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in a memorandum from the office of the Chairperson (12 March 2018) on with the subject "Intensifying HIV/AIDS Awareness in all Higher Education Institutions" in the country provides template concerning the education of college students with regard to HIV/AIDS.

CHED was alarmed from the report of the UNAIDS stated that the Philippines has become the country with the fastest growing HIV epidemic. Moreover, CHED acknowledged the alarming report from the Department of Health that two out of three newly diagnosed with HIV infection are those who belonged to 15 to 24 age bracket (see Appendix A).

Synthesis

Grindr's impact on and adoption by Grindr users cannot be understated in times where HIV/AIDS becomes a common health problem challenging our community and our world. Although a review of related literature in the

research study has allowed the researcher to identify broad classifications of motives, it is still important to indentify how the component of new media and technological advancement can be contributed on the learning aspects of students regarding HIV/AIDS infection.

In particular, the responses of college students would allow the researcher to understand and gain a more complete understanding of their participation in Grindr and how academic institutions can incorporate such learning in the health communication subject and either directly to any related health communication subjects or NSTP. Thus, the current study relied on the different literature reviewed to arrive at its purpose.

Grindr has a wide range of technology that attracts users especially among the young people. The researcher himself had explored by created an account and see how it works.

In online presence, Grindr users create profiles, which they may personalize with good-looking visuals, as well as there is an optional link to other social media sites such as Facebook Twitter, or Instagram. Moreover, Grindr users can change and adapt a variety of sections of their profile with content.

The study through the literature reviewed helped in clarifying user motivations on the communication and use of Grindr, identify the communicative outcomes associated with using ubiquitous technologies like

Grindr, and solicits with regard to what particular health communication subject can be included in an identified health communication subjects or in the NSTP of a private university in Metro Manila.

Moreover, the National Conference on Health Communication the researcher himself initiated in 2016 together with other government and non-government organizations had helped this research gained some critical and practical knowledge about HIV/AIDS that supplements the learning of this study (see Appendix B).

In a relative view, perhaps what makes Grindr technology so revolutionary among young people is its trend and usefulness. The fact cannot be denied that risks, including that of HIV infections were present before Grindr was created as dating applications. After all, everyone needs to comprehend that Grindr is just like other social media sites with a more filtered and identified users.

As Master of Development Communication student at the Faculty of Information and Communication Studies of the University of the Philippines—Open University, the researcher vehemently states that at the end of the day, all social networking sites serve the same purpose, to flatten our world either in bad faith or a good one.

Though in this particular study, individuals need to seek the truth about the contribution of Grindr on the epidemic that concerns our world—the HIV/AIDS. The results that this research found could be used to help young people be aware, as well as other actors of the society, about such health problem.

Not all subjects that are taught in college tackle HIV/AIDS. Thus, the review of literatures helped the research clarify issues to have arrived at a conclusion that indeed, the National Service Training Program in college would be the right avenue to help students be aware of HIV. This will also help them to make better options having been aware of the infection to protect themselves and their love ones.

Modern technology has impacted our lives, particularly the millennial, and individuals should know how they can make use of these technologies to benefit our community and our universe. Everyone need to play our cards right online to find things that we are looking for, not blaming what the human inventions had contributed in our times.

In this study, it is significant to understand that while the researcher does include men of “other” sexual orientation whom are referenced as men who have sex with other men, but who do not identify themselves as gay or bisexual, the main focus of this study is on self-identified gay and bisexual men. Specifically, how they use Grindr to fulfill different physical, social, and

psychological needs towards that directly or indirectly make them aware of HIV infections.

Uncovering motivations and understanding associated the used of media and communication behavior may enable better design to understand the PNA technology by uncovering the features that enable user experience and satisfaction. Thus, in the process of user experience and satisfaction, it is also important to investigate the HIV awareness of Grindr users being a common health problem the world is facing today.

Theoretical Framework

The New Media Theory was used to investigate communication and use of Grindr towards HIV awareness among the respondents. As defined by Vogt (2017), the theory is universally known for an easily reached digital device with an interactive feedback mechanism as well as innovative participation. Some of the examples include blogs, social media, news online and online games.

Vogt (2017) explains that a defining characteristic of new media is dialogue. New Media transmit content through connection and conversation. It enables people around the world to share, comment on, and discuss a wide variety of topics. Unlike any of past technologies, New Media is grounded on an interactive community.

The theory is a comprehension why users aggressively come into view for a particular media to accommodate their particular wants. As Severin and Tankard (1997) stated, the new media shows a particular approach in significant the opportunities that widely use media and communication can offer to the humanity.

Also, Katz et. al. (1974) shared that the theory assumes that users are not submissive patrons of the media. Rather, they are audience that has power over their media consumption and assumes an active role in integrating media into their own lives and purposes.

One important difference between the early focus on traditional mass media (such as television) and the shift to new communication technologies is the greater degree of interactivity the latter systems provide to users (Tong and van de Wiele, 2014).

In general, the use of this theory in the research aims to identify both collective and psychological needs that generate expectations on the use of social media that leads to differential patterns of media exposures—in this case, Grindr exposure and HIV awareness.

In particular, New Media Theory in this study will be either sought after or obtained contentment from Grindr. Also, the study theorizes on how Grindr builds communication, the communicative behavioral acts that occur, the

culture that is developed, and how it became a part of students' daily lives and activities.

To add, the contentment of users refers to the intended or expected gains from as well as the actual gains experienced from the Grindr use.

Conceptual Framework

Based on the New Media Theory, it can be assumed that Grindr allows its users for interactive conversations that can expect an interactive feedback right away. Also, Grindr enables users to discuss and look for the kind of conversation they are looking at within a particular nearby space. Thus, new media theory in this study is highly understood as soliciting an interactive community among its users.

The study forwards that the communication and use of Grindr can help towards HIV awareness among students of a private university in Metro Manila. This can be obtained through interactive conversations as well as interactive feedback through Grindr engagements. This will lead to the HIV infection consciousness that they will solicit from the use of Grindr.

On the other hand, the experts' view on the communication and use of Grindr among the college students of a private university in Metro Manila can further validate the personal purpose of the users in subscribing to the applications. Thus, their inputs will further help understand the new media theory used in this study.

The study supposed that the views of college students in a private university in Metro Manila as well as views of experts can be a springboard and basis in drafting contents for the proposed NSTP subject.

On the other hand, the study assumed that the demographic profile of the respondents differ from their level of HIV awareness. Apparently, this can be understood in the course of the kind of conversations that Grindr users are engaging with. As New Media Theory explains, the kind of conversations expected from the media would depend on the collective purpose of users.

Moreover, the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents can help illustrate and interpret the exact objective, mutual, and emotional fulfilment that respondents search for to accomplish in communicating and using Grindr dating application.

Also, the study subscribed to the applicability of New Media Theory in the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among respondents.

Results of the study would serve as a basis for introducing Health Communication subject through the National Service Training Program of a private university in Metro Manila.

Figure 1 presents the conceptual framework of the study.

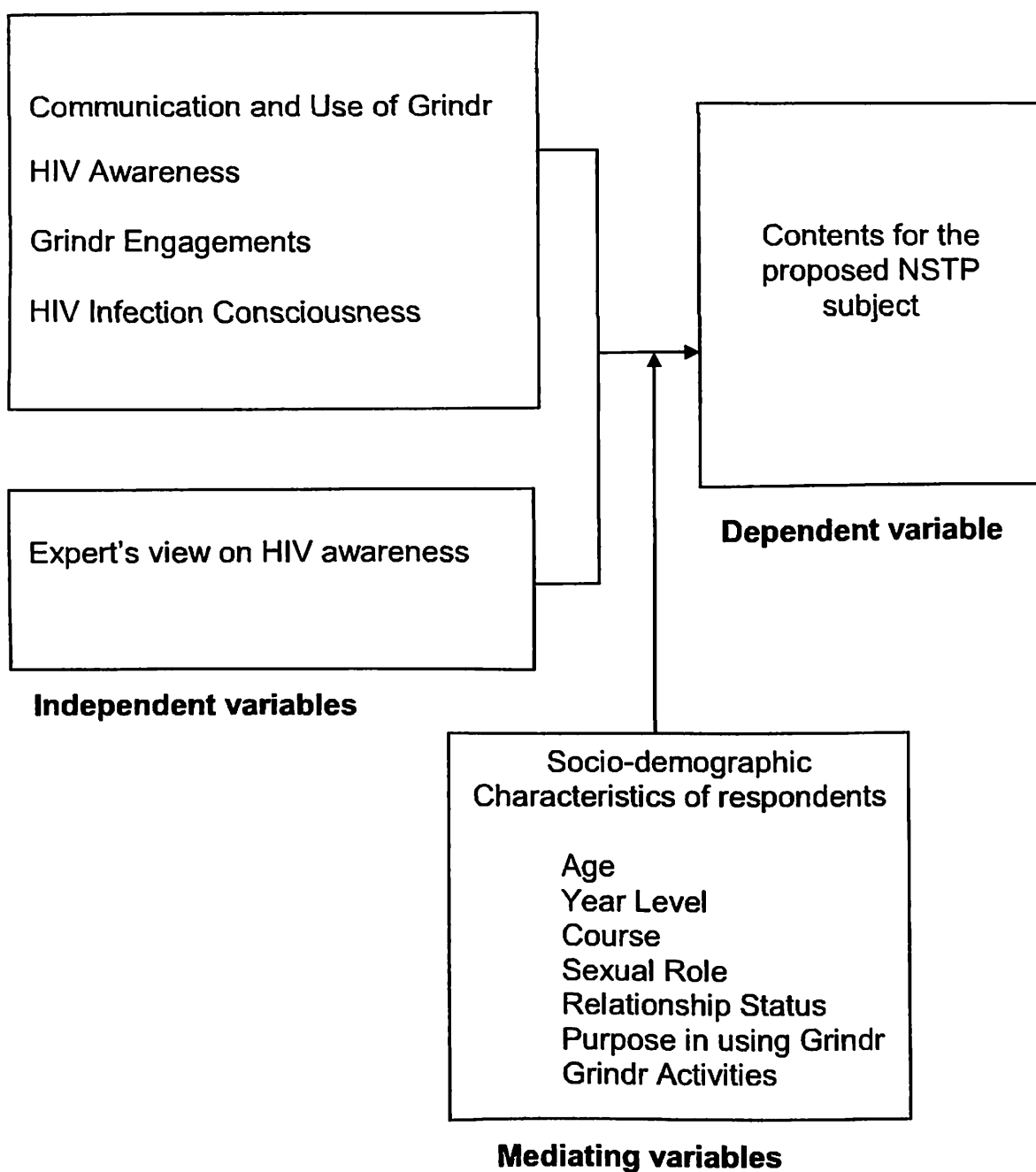


Figure 1. Relationship of communication and use of Grindr in developing a subject on HIV awareness under the National Service Training Program.

Operational Definition of Terms

Awareness is the competency or knowledge of respondents who were Grindr users on HIV in a private university in Metro Manila.

Communication refers to ways on how Grindr communicates HIV awareness among its users as well as how the respondents use the dating application in interactive conversations and feedback conversations.

Consciousness refers to how Grindr communicate on the respondents with regard to HIV infection that they can acquire through sexual activities.

Infection refers to the transmission of HIV that the respondents may acquire during sexual activities through Grindr hook-ups.

HIV refers to infection that Grindr users might acquire during Grindr use.

- Grindr** refers to a dating and meeting applications that is used in the study as basis for HIV awareness and in developing a health communication program in NSTP.
- Grindr Activities** refer to the different personal purpose and behavior of the respondents as to sexual contact, friendship, chatmate, phone pal, prostitution, service (massage, male escorts, etc.), selling (food, gadgets, etc.) announcements (for rent, party, etc.), and the like.
- Grindr Purpose** refers to some reasons in subscribing Grindr either by (1) looking for lifetime partner, (2) instant sex partner, and (3) other personal purpose.
- Relationship** refers to their queer relationship that the respondents are looking at in this study either single, committed, dating, engaged, exclusive, married, open relationship and partnered.
- Sexual Role** refers to the language used and seen on Grindr that helped determine the sexual aggressiveness of the respondents of the study as to top (the one who is doing the penetration only), versatile top

(the one who is doing the penetration but can be penetrated), versatile (either be doing the penetration or can be penetrated), versatile bottom (the one who can be penetrated but can do the penetration), and bottom (the one who is submitting to the penetration only).

Users

refer to the respondents of the study who were subscribing to Grindr dating application.

Chapter 3

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study employed the one-shot survey research design. Shields and Rangarajan (2013) explained that a descriptive research is used to describe characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied. It does not answer questions about how, when, and why the characteristics occurred. Rather it addresses the "what" question. Also, characteristics used to describe the situation or population are usually some kind of categorical scheme also known as descriptive categories.

Locale of the Study

The research locale was a private university in Metro Manila. This university was chosen because of the presence of Grindr users as reflected by PNA results.

Participants of the Study

Students from a private university in Metro Manila using Grindr applications were the participants of the study. They were randomly selected and identified from the different academic units with the help of research assistants.

The different academic units in the university were: (1) Basic Education Department (supervising Junior High School), (2) Senior High School Department, (3) College of Arts, Sciences and Education, (4) Colleges of Hotel and Tourism Management, (5) College of Business Administration and Accountancy, (6) College of Nursing, (7) College of Medical Technology, (8) College of Computing and Information Sciences, and (9) Graduate School.

Sampling Procedure

The sampling was chosen in accordance with the qualifications for each respondent and in this case, as Grindr users. In this study, criteria were used to qualify: respondents must be a bona fide student of a private university in Metro Manila who is a Grindr user and currently enrolled and willing to participate throughout the process of the study.

To further facilitate answers to the research material as honestly as possible, responses to the questions were treated with extreme confidentiality.

There were 100 identified Grindr respondents in a private university in Metro Manila used in this study. For the purpose of confidentiality, their names in the research questionnaire were made optional.

To make sure that respondents of the study are qualified in answering the research instrument, a group of Grindr users that are acquainted with each other were asked to participate in the study. Also, an informal

organization of LGBT in the university was asked to give assistance in the facilitation of the research instrument.

Research Instruments

The study used triangulation method of research. To understand the communication and use of Grindr among college students of a private university in Metro Manila, a self-developed research instrument (see Appendix C) was used. A developed research instrument (see Appendix D) was used to determine the level of HIV awareness of the respondents.

The qualitative research instrument (see Appendix E) was used to validate the answers of the respondents based from both developed and self-developed research instruments. Also, the results of the qualitative survey supplement the objectives and the purpose of the study.

The key informants in the study were experts in their respective fields and came from different industry and academic areas. They are Dr. Ferdinand Bunag (Doctor of Information Technology), Dr. Veronica Isla, (Doctor of Philosophy in Communication), Dr. Elizabeth Naui, (Doctor of Philosophy in Health Communication), Dr. Marc Joseph Seguban (Doctor of Medicine), Dr. Hector Perez (Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology), Dr. Esperanza San Diego (Doctor of Philosophy in Cosmic Anthropology), Dr. Carmencita Robles (Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology), and Dr. Maybelle Padua (Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy).

Data Gathering Procedure

The study was conducted through a series of procedures. Letters were drafted and sent for approval through proper channels. The instrument for quantitative and qualitative methods was modified, validated by experts and formatted in a questionnaire for the respondents and key informants, respectively. The questionnaire was pretested within the same sample population. The researcher distributed the survey forms and after gathering the necessary information, results were tallied. A group of LGBT informal organization in the university distributed the survey forms and after gathering the necessary information, results were tallied.

The study was conducted through a series of procedures. Communication letters was created and sent for approval trough proper channels. The instrument for quantitative and qualitative methods was modified, validated by experts and formatted in a questionnaire for the respondents and key informants respectively. A pilot test was conducted using the sample within the sample population. The researcher distributed the survey forms and after gathering the necessary information, results were tallied.

Answers from respondents were summed up and underwent interpretation and analysis. Results were organized and worksheets were constructed for facilitating quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Data Analysis

The data gathered used the following statistical treatments and calculations in the study:

Percentage Method

The percentage method was used to represent the percent of the profile of the respondents. Percentage was obtained by dividing cases considered by the total number of cases and the quotient was multiplied by 100. The formula used was:

$$\text{Percentage Distribution} = \frac{\text{Frequency } (f)}{\text{Total Number of Respondents } (N)} \times 100\%$$

Where:

f = Frequency

N = Total number of respondents used in the study

Furthermore, the obtained data was statistically analyzed employing mean, standard deviation, rank, t-test, and the one-way analysis of variance. The significant level was set at .05.

Mean

The mean was employed to determine the level of HIV awareness of Grindr among college students in a private university in Metro Manila. Two

different scales of means with the same verbal interpretations were used in this study.

For developed questionnaire entitled "The HIV-Knowledge Questionnaire: Development and Evaluation of a Reliable, Valid, and Practical Self-Administered Questionnaire" by Carey, Morrison-Beedy and Johnson (1997). Scores in the test were evaluated by taking note of the expected correct answers (see Appendix D).

The following scale of means and the verbal interpretations were used:

<u>Scale of Means</u>	<u>Verbal Interpretation</u>
13-20	Highly Aware
10-12	Aware
06-09	Moderately Aware
01-05	Not Aware

For researcher-developed questionnaire, the following scale of means and the verbal interpretations were used:

<u>Scale of Means</u>	<u>Verbal Interpretation</u>
3.75-5.00	Highly Aware
2.50-3.74	Aware
1.25-2.49	Moderately Aware
1.00-1.24	Not Aware

To obtain the weighted mean scores in the researcher-developed questionnaire, the following formula was used:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n W_1 X_2}{n}$$

where:

W_1 = weight of each item or value

X_2 = represents each of the items or values

n = total number of weights

Standard Deviation

Standard deviation was used to determine the homogeneity as well as the heterogeneity of the scores of the study on communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila.

T-test.

To determine the significance of differences in the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila as to statistical rule of thumb, respondents were classified as to age. The t-test was used. The significance level was set at .05 alpha.

Z-test.

To determine the significance of differences in the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila, respondents were classified as to course. The Z-test was used. The significance level was set at .05 alpha.

One-Way-Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

To determine the significance of differences in the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila, respondents were classified as to year level, sexual role, relationship status, and Grindr purpose. The one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed. The significance level was set at .05 alpha.

Rank

Rank was used to determine the first three and least three of the scores of the study communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila.

In the qualitative method, the researcher used key informants to further understand the results of the study on communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila. Also, the key informants helped in the validation to attain the objectives of the study.

Questionnaires

There were three types of research instruments used in this study.

To answer the first statement of the problem on the level of HIV awareness of the respondents, the 45 HIV Knowledge Questionnaire (HIV-K-Q) of Carey et. al. (1997) was used in this study. It was filtered in to 25 questions where answers are reflected in the appendices (see Appendix D) of this research.

The following rating scales were used from HIV Knowledge Questionnaire (HIV-K-Q) of Carey et. al. (1997) to determine the level of HIV awareness of the respondents, to wit:

<u>Knowledge</u>	<u>Choice</u>
True	1
False	2
I don't know	3

To answer the second, third and fourth statements of the problem, a researcher-made survey questionnaire were utilized. Aquino (1992) stated that a questionnaire is a list of planned, written questions related to a particular topic, with space provided for indicating the response to each question.

More specifically, the researcher-made survey questionnaire was adopted and modified from a sample intercept questionnaire. The questionnaire is divided into two parts. The first part is an assessment tool for the profile of the respondents which are consisted of closed-type questions and profile asked from Grindr. Information such as (optional) personal information, (required) age, year level, course and college where they belong was asked.

Grindr administered profiling as to sexual role, relationship status, respondent's purpose in using Grindr as well as Grindr activities was also asked to answer some of the research inquiries.

The questionnaire was tested for validity and reliability. The content was validated by panel of experts. The researcher incorporated the suggestions and revised some sections in the research instrument. The research instrument was pilot tested within the sample population who will not be included as actual respondent of the study.

The questionnaire got a reliability coefficient using cronbach alpha, with the rule of thumb of 0.7 and more. Table 1 shows the reliability of the questionnaire tested.

Table 1. Reliability Test Values of the Quantitative Instrument

Item	α	Result
HIV Awareness	0.893	Accepted
Grindr Engagements	0.964	Accepted
HIV Consciousness	0.946	Accepted

The researcher-made survey questionnaire used Likert scale. Wuensch (2005) stated that the used of Likert scale is a psychometric scale commonly involved in investigation that employs questionnaires. Moreover, it is the most widely used approach to scaling responses in survey research, such that the term is often used interchangeably with rating scale, although there are other types of rating scales.

The following rating scales were used to determine the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila, to wit:

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Scale</u>
Strongly Disagree	5
Disagree	4
Neither Agree nor Disagree	3
Agree	2
Strongly Agree	1

To give the researcher further understanding about the results of the study from the (1) developed questionnaire and (2) self-developed questionnaire, an interview schedule was facilitated with the key informants.

A fifteen (15) item questions were asked from eight (8) key informants (see Appendix D). The research instrument was pre-tested for face and content validation. The informants for the pre-testing were not included as part of the key informants of the qualitative part of the study.

After the qualitative instrument was pre-tested, the schedule matrix was made to track and follow-up the availability schedules of the key informants. Qualitative instrument was sent to key informants via email prior to the interview schedule.

After which, the key informants were contacted and scheduled for actual interview schedule based from their availability regarding the study on communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila. Their responses was segregated and placed into thematic form for presentation in the qualitative results of the study.

Chapter 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Presentation of the Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Most (84%) respondents belonged to the 19 and above age bracket. The data confirmed that many of the young people nowadays are more likely to engage themselves into the use of Grindr that gives them opportunity to engage in sexual activities. More alarming would be those below 18 (16%).

Table 2. Distribution respondents by age.

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18 and below	16	16
19 and above	84	84
Total	100	100

In terms of year level, majority (53%) were in third year and almost (8%) 10 percent are in first year high school. This implies that Grindr users do not inhibit anyone from using the apps. Suffice to say that implications or likelihood to getting infected with HIV is not far-fetched.

On the other hand, it is also good to find out that young adults accessed this platform and would therefore be a potential medium to educate them about HIV/AIDS infection in a more discreet to present with high confidentiality a topic that may affect them in using the dating platform.

Table 3. Distribution respondents by year level.

Year Level	Frequency	Percentage
First Year and Senior High School	8	8
Second Year	14	14
Third Year	53	53
Fourth Year	25	25
Total	100	100

In terms of Science and non-science course, less than half (31%) of the science course use Grindr while big majority (69%) of the respondents are those who are in the non-science course. Respondents affirmed through their demography that those who study science were more aware of HIV/AIDS than those of non-science course.

Table 4. Distribution respondents by science and non-science course.

Science and Non-Science Course	Frequency	Percentage
Science Course	31	31
Non-Science Course	69	69
Total	100	100

There were less than half (31%) of the respondents belonged to science courses in which majority of them belonged to nursing (9%) and few (3%) belonged to pharmacy. Though there were less than half of the science courses uses Grindr, respondents should learned further literature about HIV/AIDS in their curriculum for them to be knowledgeable about the epidemic.

Table 5. Distribution of respondents by science courses.

Sciences Courses	Frequency	Percentage
Psychology	4	4
Biology	7	7
Nursing	9	9
Medical Technology	8	8
Pharmacy	3	3
Total	31	31

On the other hand, a big majority (69%) belonged to non-science courses which correspond to communication arts (17%) who usually subscribing to Grindr and a little few (2%) from public administration who explored the gay dating applications. Results confirmed that students from media and communication are more likely to be technology savvy compared to that of public administration. Thus, it is further interesting to analyze that health communication in the new curriculum should be given premium in incoming media and communication students to protect themselves from the virus.

Table 6. Distribution of respondents by non-science courses.

Non-Science Courses	Frequency	Percentage
Tourism	10	10
Public Administration	2	2
Education	3	3
Senior High School	6	6
Communication Arts	17	17
Management	6	6
Broadcasting	11	11
Information Technology	5	5
Hotel and Restaurant Management	9	9
Total	69	69

In terms of sexual position, nearly half (35%) of the respondents who admitted to be versatile are using Grindr while nearly (8%) 10 percent were those who are versa bottom.

Similarly, those who just go with the flow of the gay dating applications were aggressive in using Grindr. Moreover, awareness on HIV/AIDS should be implemented in any PNA to widen users' education about the virus.

Table 7. Distribution of respondents in terms of sexual role.

Sexual Role	Frequency	Percentage
Top	27	27%
Versa Top	15	15%
Versatile	35	35%
Versa Bottom	8	8%
Bottom	15	15%
Total	100	100%

In terms of relationship status, majority (55%) of the respondents were single and none (0%) of the respondents were engaged. Since the nature of Grindr is a gay dating application, it serves the purpose of men who are looking for men.

On the other hand, those who were partnered or engaged do not anymore subscribe to Grindr. Thus, it interprets that loyalty to one another still exists in the Philippine culture.

Table 8. Distribution of respondents in terms of relationship status.

Relationship Status	Frequency	Percentage
Committed	11	11
Dating	10	10
Engaged	0	0
Exclusive	4	4
Married	2	2
Open Relationship	12	12
Partnered	6	6
Single	55	55
Total	100	100

In terms of purpose in using Grindr, majority (51%) of the respondents were looking for a life time partner and nearly half (44%) were looking for instant sex partner.

Both categories of respondents showed that Grindr achieved the level of invitation among users that is to find for somebody to engage with through online dating.

Though there were few (5%) who have other purposes in using Grindr, HIV/AIDS awareness should not be underestimated as a Philippine health problem the youth is facing today.

Table 9. Distribution of respondents in terms of Grindr purpose.

Grindr Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
Life Time Partner	51	51
Instant Sex Partner	44	44
Others	5	5
Total	100	100

In terms of Grindr activities, 69 (ranked 1) were looking for friendship, while 1 (ranked 10) was looking for travel buddy out of 100 who participated as respondents of the study.

Results of the socio-demographic profile showed that Filipino young adults who are using Grindr are not essentially looking for sexual activities, but more of engaging for friendship in using the gay dating applications.

These Grindr activities are those that can be seen from the apps and respondents using Grindr prioritize social contacts than that of sexual contacts. Though, HIV/AIDS as an alarming health problem in the country should not be undermined as PNA like Grindr can be a venue to trap users with HIV/AIDS.

Table 10. Distribution of respondents in terms of Grindr activities.

Grindr Activities	Frequency	Rank
Friendship	69	1
Sexual Contact	63	2
Chat mate	57	3
Phone pal	25	4
Prostitution	7	5.5
Service	7	5.5
Selling	6	7.5
Announcements	6	7.5
Fun	3	9
Travel Buddy	1	10

Level of HIV Awareness among Respondents when Classified into Respondent-Related Factors

To answer the level of HIV awareness among respondents when classified as to respondent-related factors, a developed research questionnaire entitled "The HIV-Knowledge Questionnaire: Development and Evaluation of a Reliable, Valid, and Practical Self-Administered Questionnaire" by Carey, M. P., Morrison-Beedy, D. and Johnson, B. T. (1997) was used.

1. The level of HIV awareness according to Age among respondents as to (a) 18 and below and (b) 19 and above

Table 11 shows the results from the developed research questionnaire the average mean score, verbal interpretation, and the overall mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Age**.

The level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Age**: where 18 years old and below had a mean score of 10.88 with a verbal interpretation of aware; while 19 years old and above got a mean score of 11.74, also with a verbal interpretation of aware.

The overall average mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms

of **Age** as to 18 years old and below and 19 years old and above is 11.31 with a verbal interpretation of aware.

Respondents who are 19 years old and above have the highest mean score of level of HIV awareness compared to those who are 18 years old and below. Though both age categories were aware in the level of HIV awareness, this research assumed that those who were 19 and above were more matured compare to that of 18 and below. The level of maturity was contributed from social attributes such as knowledge of technology use and critical thinking.

As Grov et al. (2014) noted that in contrast to many technological advances present in our time, many of research questions with regard to dating applications remain grounded in prevention of many human infections. Thus, researches and researchers must expand to reflect the broader range of social, psychological, and the new media as well as technological issues that are present among today's younger generation.

Table 11. Level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr according to age.

Age Group	Mean	Interpretation
18 years old and below	10.88	Aware
19 years old and above	11.74	Aware
Overall Mean	11.31	Aware

Legend: 13-20 Highly Aware
 10-12 Aware
 06-09 Moderately Aware
 01-05 Not Aware

2. The level of HIV awareness according to Year Level among respondents as to (a) First Year, (b) Second Year, (c) Third Year, and (e) Fourth Year

Table 12 shows the results from the developed research questionnaire the average mean score, verbal interpretation, and the overall mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Year Level**.

The level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Year Level** is as follows:

- (1) First Year, the mean score is 10.13 with verbal interpretation of aware;
- (2) Second Year, the mean score is 12.13 with verbal interpretation of aware;
- (3) Third Year, the mean score is 10.38 with verbal interpretation of aware;
- and (4) Fourth Year, the mean score is 10.38 with verbal interpretation of aware.

The overall average mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Year Level** as to First Year, Second Year, Third Year, and Fourth Year is 10.75 with a verbal interpretation of aware.

As to the year level, it is interesting to learn that those who are in the second year level are more aware with regard to HIV awareness. Third year and fourth year had the same level of HIV awareness, while first year attained the lowest mean score. Though all of the respondents in terms of year level

were aware, this research believed that second year students are more aggressive in their learning process compare to other year level.

Tan (2015) in a study elaborated that in realm of media and technology use, it can be noted that oftentimes, Grindr users and other gay dating applications users skip the intellectual part of conversations and go straight to the sexual attributes. Thus, the spread of HIV/AIDS among the youth is alarming in the Philippines than before.

Table 12. Level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr according to year level.

Year Level	Mean	Interpretation
First Year	10.13	Aware
Second Year	12.13	Aware
Third Year	10.38	Aware
Fourth year	10.38	Aware
Overall Mean	10.75	Aware

Legend: 13-20 Highly Aware
 10-12 Aware
 06-09 Moderately Aware
 01-05 Not Aware

3. The level of HIV awareness according to Course among respondents as to (a) Science Course and (b) Non-Science Course

Table 13 shows the results from the developed research questionnaire the average mean score, verbal interpretation, and the overall mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Course**.

The level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Course** is as follows: (1) Non-Science, the mean score is 11.21 with verbal interpretation of aware; and (2) Science, the mean score is 12.54 with verbal interpretation of highly aware.

The overall average mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Course** as to Non-Science and Science is 11.87 with a verbal interpretation of aware.

In this study, results showed that science courses had the highest level of HIV awareness compared to that of non-science courses. Customarily, we submit to the idea that learners of science had more facilities and interests in health communication compared to that of non-science.

Nevertheless, despite the potentiality for other research topics with regard to HIV awareness among college students, the bulk of previous researches established that many scholars especially among in the fields of sciences explored regarding gay men and the Internet centered risky sexual behaviors. Such behaviors are mostly barebacking that is unprotected anal intercourse, consequential to the spread of HIV/AIDS virus (Bauermeister, J.A. et. al., 2011).

Table 13. Level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr according to course.

Course	Mean	Interpretation
Non-Science	11.21	Aware
Science	12.54	Highly Aware
Overall Mean	11.87	Aware

Legend: 13-20 Highly Aware
 10-12 Aware
 06-09 Moderately Aware
 01-05 Not Aware

4. The level of HIV awareness of the College Student Respondents on the Communication and Use of Grindr according to **Sexual Role**

Table 14 shows the results from the developed research questionnaire the average mean score, verbal interpretation, and the overall mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Sexual Role** as seen on Grindr.

The level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Sexual Role** as seen on Grindr is as follows: (1) Top, the mean score is 10.22 with verbal interpretation of aware; (2) Versatile Top, the mean score is 12.53 with verbal interpretation of highly aware; (3) Versatile, the mean score is 12.26 with verbal interpretation of aware; (4) Versatile Bottom, the mean score is 13.25 with verbal interpretation of highly aware; and (5) Bottom, the mean score is 12.50 with verbal interpretation of highly aware.

The overall average mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Sexual Role** as seen on Grindr as to Top, Versatile Top, Versatile, Versatile Bottom, and Bottom is 12.15 with a verbal interpretation of aware.

Results of the level of HIV awareness based from sexual role shows an interesting viewpoint. Those who are versatile bottom (the one who can be penetrated but can do the penetration) were highly aware. This shows that Grindr users who are more of aggressive in sex had ways in protecting themselves from the virus.

On the other hand, top (the one who is doing the penetration only) had less awareness in sexual role. As we give the operational definition in Chapter 2, these are Grindr users whom we assumed as first time to engage in sex or being closeted. Hence, they are submitting themselves into unsafe sexual practices.

As Fleming and Wasserheit (2009) stated, the spread of a sexually transmitted diseases (STD) greatly increases an individual of acquiring or transmitting HIV/AIDS. Presently, in the Philippines, some of the highest STD rates in the country are those among young people.

Table 14. Level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr according to sexual role as seen on Grindr dating application.

Sexual Role	Mean	Interpretation
Top	10.22	Aware
Versatile Top	12.53	Highly Aware
Versatile	12.26	Aware
Versatile Bottom	13.25	Highly Aware
Bottom	12.50	Highly Aware
Overall Mean	12.15	Aware

Legend: 13-20 Highly Aware
 10-12 Aware
 06-09 Moderately Aware
 01-05 Not Aware

5. The level of HIV awareness according to **Relationship Status** among respondents as to (a) science course and (b) non-science course

Table 15 shows the results from the developed research questionnaire the average mean score, verbal interpretation, and the overall mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Relationship Status** as seen on Grindr.

The level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Relationship Status** as seen on Grindr is as follows: (1) Committed, the mean score is 11.90 with verbal interpretation of aware; (2) Dating, the mean score is 11.20 with verbal interpretation of aware; (3) Exclusive, the mean score is 12.75 with verbal interpretation of highly aware; (4) Married, the mean score is 12.50 with

verbal interpretation of highly aware; (5) Open Relationship, the mean score is 11.54 with verbal interpretation of aware; (6) Partnered, the mean score is 9.83 with verbal interpretation of aware; and (7) Single, the mean score is 10.09 with verbal interpretation of aware.

The overall average mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Relationship Status** as seen on Grindr as to Committed, Dating, Exclusive, Married, Open Relationship, Partnered, and Single is 11.40 with a verbal interpretation of aware.

Results showed that those who are in exclusive relationships status are those who are highly aware of HIV. We can contribute this behavior to the idea of love and loyalty for one on one relationship. On the other hand, a conflicting idea from the results of the study showed that among those who were partnered has less HIV awareness.

The key informant for self and others reiterated that true love should exist in any gender preferences. Though the purpose of sex is for procreation, the only way to protect oneself from health problems like HIV is to have loyalty with your partner.

Table 15. Level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr according to relationship status as seen on Grindr dating application.

Relationship Status	Mean	Interpretation
Committed	11.90	Aware
Dating	11.20	Aware
Exclusive	12.75	Highly Aware
Married	12.50	Highly Aware
Open Relationship	11.54	Aware
Partnered	9.83	Aware
Single	10.09	Aware
Overall Mean	11.40	Aware

Legend: 13-20 Highly Aware
 10-12 Aware
 06-09 Moderately Aware
 01-05 Not Aware

6. The level of HIV awareness according to Grindr Purpose among respondents as to (a) science course and (b) non-science course

Table 16 shows the results from the developed research questionnaire the average mean score, verbal interpretation, and the overall mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Grindr Purpose** as seen on Grindr.

The level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Grindr Purpose** as seen on Grindr is as follows: (1) Lifetime Partner, the mean score is 11.39 with verbal interpretation of aware; (3) Instant Sex Partner, the mean score is 11.95 with

verbal interpretation of aware; and (3) Others, the mean score is 10.60 with verbal interpretation of aware.

The overall average mean score on the level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr in terms of **Grindr Purpose** as seen on Grindr as to Lifetime Partner, Instant Sex Partner, and Others is 11.31 with a verbal interpretation of aware.

Respondents within other purpose were less aware of HIV. The results showed that these are respondents, who are not really into sex, but other activities such as trading, services like massage, events, or community announcements. Those who were looking for instant sex partners are more aware of HIV infection. In this study, the researcher assumed that respondents looking for instant sex partners were already infected of sexually transmitted diseases, not necessarily from Grindr activities. Thus, they already learned from their experiences.

The data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2004) showed that according to Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, many young people begin having sexual intercourse at very early ages. A disturbing data showed that high school students (47%) have had sexual intercourse, and some (7.4%) of them reported first sexual intercourse before age 13. Research also added that HIV/AIDS education needs to take place at correspondingly among young ages, before young people engage in sexual behaviors that put them at risk for HIV infection.

Table 16. Level of HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr according to Grindr purpose as seen on Grindr dating application.

Grindr Purpose	Mean	Interpretation
Lifetime Partner	11.39	Aware
Instant Sex Partner	11.95	Aware
Others	10.60	Aware
Overall Mean	11.31	Aware

Legend: 13-20 Highly Aware
 10-12 Aware
 06-09 Moderately Aware
 01-05 Not Aware

Specific HIV Knowledge Respondents Acquire during Grindr Activities

1. The Rank of Specific HIV Awareness of the College Student Respondents on the Communication and Use of Grindr as to Entire Category

The first three and the least three on the HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr as to **Entire Category** are as follows: the first three are (1) Grindr had helped me gain some practical knowledge to protect myself from HIV, the mean score is 4.70 with verbal interpretation of highly aware; (2) Grindr users talk about safe sex which encouraged me to do the same, the mean score is 4.38 with verbal interpretation of highly aware; and (3) Grindr members require safe sex before meeting for fun, the mean score is 4.37 with verbal interpretation of highly aware.

On the other hand, the least three are (10) Grindr had helped me be informed about HIV through exchange of conversations, the mean score is 3.57 with verbal interpretation of aware; (9) People I met in Grindr would always remind me of safe sex, the mean score is 3.63 with verbal interpretation of aware; and (8) I am knowledgeable enough regarding HIV even before joining Grindr, the mean score is 3.80 with verbal interpretation of highly aware.

The overall average mean score on the HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr as to the **Entire Category** is 4.04 with a verbal interpretation of highly aware.

The results revealed that respondents of the study had gained some practical knowledge about HIV through the use of Grindr. This shows that some of the users are concerned about their health. Thus, before engaging in sexual activities, they are already alarmed about HIV infection. Also, there are members who are promoting awareness of HIV through Grindr.

Grindr users talk about safe sex which encouraged them to do the same as Grindr itself has HIV status profile for every member. Even if other users had the option of not telling their status, other members may learn with regard to HIV status and if they are getting tested regularly or not.

Grindr members require safe sex before meeting for fun as many of the members of the dating application are picky in dealing with partners. Customarily, it is normal to find a healthy and fit partner either for the purpose of relationship or fun.

Grindr as Crooks (2013) noted, although it is relatively new as gay dating applications, the way it has so far compared to that of other forms of the media such as in magazine, on television, and all other reading materials certainly recalls many features of gay sexual life regarded as dangerous and harmful to health.

The least of the specific HIV awareness from Grindr according to the respondents is that Grindr had little influence about HIV through exchange of conversations. For one, it is a personal and confidential health record. Adding that HIV is not yet socially accepted in the Philippines, the disclosure of HIV status would keep them away from meeting a target Grindr member.

No one in Grindr wanted to get infected with HIV. They wanted to enjoy what the dating application has to offer them. However, members do not always reveal and remind other members to practice safe sex and make sound choices.

On the other hand, the good thing regarding the specific HIV awareness that users acquired from Grindr is that prior to using the gay

dating applications, they have basic knowledge about HIV either taught previously from learning institutions or read literatures.

As explained by Tong and van de Wiele (2014) that in the past, the distinction between virtual and physical dating for gay men was very bare which we can easily study human activities in acquiring HIV/AIDS as well as other communicable diseases.

Table 17. The rank of specific HIV awareness of the college student respondents on the communication and use of Grindr as to entire category.

HIV Awareness acquired from Grindr:	Mean	Interpretation	Rank
Grindr had helped me gain some practical knowledge to protect myself from HIV.	4.70	Highly Aware	1
I am aware that engaging in unsafe sex can make me HIV infected.	4.10	Highly Aware	5
Grindr users talk about safe sex which encouraged me to do the same.	4.38	Highly Aware	2
I am knowledgeable enough regarding HIV even before joining Grindr.	3.80	Highly Aware	8
Grindr had helped me be informed about HIV through exchange of conversations.	3.57	Aware	10
People I met in Grindr would always remind me of safe sex.	3.63	Aware	9
Grindr members provide relative information about HIV infection.	3.91	Highly Aware	6
HIV is an infection that I can acquire through Grindr sexual activities.	3.87	Highly Aware	7
Grindr members require safe sex before meeting for fun.	4.37	Highly Aware	3
I am aware that in meeting Grindr members, I should do safe sex to protect myself from HIV.	4.11	Highly Aware	4
Overall Mean	4.04	Highly Aware	

Legend: 3.75-5.00 Highly Aware
 2.50-3.74 Aware
 1.25-2.49 Moderately Aware
 1.00-1.24 Not Aware

The Objective, Mutual, and Emotional Fulfilment that Respondents Search for to Accomplish when Engaging in Grindr Use

1. The Rank of the Exact Objective, Mutual, and Emotional Fulfilment Do Respondents Search for to Accomplish when Engaging in Grindr Use as to Entire Category

The first three and the least three on the exact objective, mutual, and emotional fulfilment do respondents search for to accomplish when engaging in Grindr as to **Entire Category** are as follows: the first three are (1) Grindr has the ability to provide physical access to other users along with proximity, the mean score is 4.00 with verbal interpretation of highly aware; (2) Grindr offers a unique blend of what I want in meeting people in an offline and online dynamics, the mean score is 3.84 with verbal interpretation of highly aware; and (3) Grindr users expect to attain definite outcomes from the profile of other members, the mean score is 3.81 with verbal interpretation of highly aware.

On the other hand, the least three are (10) Grindr engages me to Internet addiction like watching pornography, the mean score is 3.20 with verbal interpretation of aware; (9) Grindr helps me chase my wildest fantasy in a secretive manner when I am lonely, the mean score is 3.48 with verbal interpretation of aware; and (8) Grindr helps me to fulfil my physical, social, and emotional needs, the mean score is 3.51 with verbal interpretation of aware.

The overall average mean score on the exact objective, mutual, and emotional fulfilment do respondents search for to accomplish when engaging in Grindr as to **Entire Category** is 3.66 with a verbal interpretation of aware.

Results of the study revealed that Grindr maximizes the chances of meeting individuals within the area. And without further requirements, they can easily agree whether to meet or not from the exchanges of pictures, conversations, compatibility as well as proximity.

Also, the app enables users to specify their profiles, for them attract individuals that they desire to meet with. Grindr users has unique feature to filter, save as favourite or block other users that make the app different and dynamic in a way.

In Grindr, once other users view your requirements and matches with yours, they can start to communicate and fulfil the outcome and the purpose of the Grindr use.

Toch and Levi (2013) affirmed that in a common knowledge, people nearby applications such as Grindr are designed to collect each user's geographic position from a smart mobile phone. That location is then transmitted to a particular server, allowing other users to access one's information to see who is nearby that fulfils one's desire for emotional affection.

An interesting viewpoint that the respondents revealed is that Grindr dating application is more favoured when compared to other gay activities such as clubbing, exclusive gay parties and the like.

In reality, Grindr cached and trapped the attention of other members with their physical attributes in the realm of dating. This can be contributed from profiles, visuals, and conversations to actual meet-ups. Furthermore, not all Grindr users' desires are being satisfied by Grindr.

In the use of Grindr, members may subject themselves to further rejections, sometimes humiliation that leads to impatience and lower once self-esteem. This is the reality of actual meet-ups that is totally different from communication within Grindr technology.

Grov et. al., (2014) supported the idea that before the people nearby applications like Grindr came to make connections faster and even easier, gay and bisexual men connected in a variety of physical spaces like clubbing, bathhouses, cruising parks, and sauna bath houses. But of course there are drawbacks from these physical spaces such as abuse from the authority and crimes to name a few. Either online or offline, the features of Grindr had helped gay men flattened their world.

Table 18. The rank of the exact objective, mutual, and emotional fulfilment do respondents search for to accomplish when engaging in Grindr as to entire category.

Engagements acquired from Grindr:	Mean	Interpretation	Rank
Grindr helps me to fulfill my physical, social, and emotional needs.	3.51	Aware	8
Grindr helps me to discover my personal crises and sexual identities.	3.78	Highly Aware	4.5
Grindr helps me keep my identity while having fun and engagements with others.	3.78	Highly Aware	4.5
Grindr develops connections among its users that lead to more intense relationship.	3.64	Aware	6
Grindr engages me to Internet addiction like watching pornography.	3.20	Aware	10
Grindr didn't threaten my personal views of choosing how to manage my personal secrets.	3.57	Aware	7
Grindr helps me chase my wildest fantasy in a secretive manner when I am lonely.	3.48	Aware	9
Grindr offers a unique blend of what I want in meeting people in an offline and online dynamics.	3.84	Highly Aware	2
Grindr has the ability to provide physical access to other users along with proximity.	4.00	Highly Aware	1
Grindr users expect to attain definite outcomes from the profile of other members.	3.81	Highly Aware	3
Overall Mean	3.66	Aware	

Legend: 3.75-5.00 Highly Aware
 2.50-3.74 Aware
 1.25-2.49 Moderately Aware
 1.00-1.24 Not Aware

Grindr Communication to the Consciousness of the College Students Regarding HIV Infection Acquired through Sexual Activities

1. The Rank in Grindr communication on the consciousness of the college students regarding HIV infection that they can acquire through sexual activities as to Entire Category

The first three and the least three on the Grindr communication on the consciousness of the college students regarding HIV infection that they can acquire through sexual activities as to **Entire Category** are as follows: the first three are (1) Information and profile of users would always be a priority of Grindr if they are HIV infected, the mean score is 3.92 with verbal interpretation of highly aware; (2) Grindr shows social and moral responsibility in protecting its members to be HIV infected, the mean score is 3.82 with verbal interpretation of highly aware; and (3) Grindr is responsible in informing users to do safe sex, the mean score is 3.76 with verbal interpretation of highly aware.

On the other hand, the least three are (10) Stories of members on how they acquire HIV infection is being shared on Grindr, the mean score is 2.99 with verbal interpretation of aware; (9) Warning on HIV infection while meeting strangers can be found in Grindr, the mean score is 3.39 with verbal interpretation of aware; and (8) Informing member's HIV infection is an option to disclose in Grindr, the mean score is 3.48 with verbal interpretation of aware.

The overall average mean score on the Grindr communication on the consciousness of the college students regarding HIV infection that they can acquire through sexual activities as to **Entire Category** is 3.60 with a verbal interpretation of aware.

Results of the study revealed that, upon learning the HIV status of other members through their profiles, users tend to immediately decide to either avoid or engaged depending on the kind of communication and consciousness that both members had facilitated.

As mentioned, one of Grindr features is to provide the HIV status of members even if it is not reliable. Though, members felt that Grindr is responsible enough to inform and warned them from HIV infection. To the respondents, this shows that if Grindr is not concerned about HIV infection, the app would not include HIV status of members as part of the Grindr feature.

When using Grindr, occasionally there are pop-up infomercials regarding health communication for the users. News and features regarding HIV infection as well as global updates are being shared among members. Thus, respondents felt that Grindr is responsible in informing users to do safe sex.

In a research, Crooks (2013) often asked men using gay dating applications as to what they think about Grindr. The responses were the same that these men are looking for a sense of belongingness. Although, the

research observed that media use such as campaign, information and other particular purpose that Grindr are also present in the apps.

When talking about HIV infection shared in Grindr, respondents shared that Grindr users does not share the story about how they get HIV infection. Since this is a sensitive and personal discussion to disclose with.

Sometimes, the temptation to engage in sexual activities can cloud their judgements towards HIV infection. This happens especially if one is dealing with member who is attractive to them.

There are Grindr users who created accounts to broaden HIV awareness. In this regard, though this is a voluntary initiative among members, the consciousness on how HIV can be transmitted among members will only be personal choice. Hence members can ignore or accept HIV awareness through Grindr use.

Landovitz (2013) in an assessment explained that of the current representations of Grindr, research has indeed shown that users frequently turn to Grindr to accomplish sexual gratifications without considering some of its consequences that may happen. However, the research also presents some results that suggest one way and the other. Less obvious with regard to the use of Grindr are motivations for use, such as companionship, dating, or monogamous passionate relationship commencement.

Table 19. The rank in Grindr communication on the consciousness of the college students regarding HIV infection that they can acquire through sexual activities as to entire category.

HIV consciousness acquired from Grindr:	Score	Interpretation	Rank
Grindr is responsible in informing users to do safe sex.	3.76	Aware	3
Information and profile of users would always be a priority of Grindr if they are HIV infected.	3.92	Highly Aware	1
Grindr can be viewed as dating and business app with less concern on HIV infection.	3.67	Aware	5
Relative information regarding HIV is being provided by Grindr.	3.61	Aware	7
Grindr finds way to inform the public users about HIV condition of their members.	3.68	Aware	4
Warning on HIV infection while meeting strangers can be found in Grindr.	3.39	Aware	9
Grindr supports individual or group campaigns with regard to HIV.	3.65	Aware	6
Informing member's HIV infection is an option to disclose in Grindr.	3.48	Aware	8
Grindr shows social and moral responsibility in protecting its members to be HIV infected.	3.82	Highly Aware	2
Stories of members on how they acquire HIV infection is being shared on Grindr.	2.99	Aware	10
Overall Mean	3.60	Aware	

Legend: 3.75-5.00 Highly Aware
 2.50-3.74 Aware
 1.25-2.49 Moderately Aware
 1.00-1.24 Not Aware

Particular Health Communication Topic/s on HIV in the National Service Training Program of a Private University in Metro Manila

To answer what particular health communication topic on HIV can be proposed in the National Service Training Program of a private university in Metro Manila, the qualitative results from key informants was used.

1. Particular Health Communication Topic on HIV in the National Service Training Program of a University in Metro Manila by the **Key Informant for Health Communication**

Table 20. Particular health communication topic on HIV in NSTP by the Key Informant for Health Communication.

Informant	Health Communication Topic on HIV
Key Informant for Health Communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global Statistics of the HIV infected 2. Local statistics of the HIV infected 3. How it affects the over-all quality of life of the infected and their immediate family members 4. The social cost of HIV infection

2. Particular Health Communication Topic on HIV in the National Service Training Program of a University in Metro Manila by the **Key Informant for Communication**

Table 21. Particular health communication topic on HIV in NSTP by the Key Informant for Communication.

Informant	Health Communication Topic on HIV
Key Informant for Communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HIV as a fatal infection 2. Rate of infection every day from the communications media 3. Modes of acquisition of HIV infection 4. Signs and symptoms of HIV infection 5. Management and treatment of HIV infection 6. Prognosis of HIV infection and the latest developments in HIV research or any related health communication discussions 7. Prevention 8. Interventions and support groups for HIV infected individuals 9. How to help in the HIV prevention campaign "Every NSTP student can help save a life"

3. Particular Health Communication Topic on HIV in the National Service Training Program of a University in Metro Manila by the **Key Informant for Medicine**

Table 22. Particular health communication topic on HIV in NSTP by the Key Informant for Medicine.

Informant	Health Communication Topic on HIV
Key Informant for Medicine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Definition of HIV and Aids 2. Difference between HIV and AIDS 3. Causative agent 4. Mode of Transmission 5. Pathology of HIV Infection 6. Sign and Symptoms of Aids 7. Prevention of Acquiring HIV 8. Treatment of Symptoms and Psychological Counselling of Patients

4. Particular Health Communication Topic on HIV in the National Service Training Program of a University in Metro Manila by the **Key Informant for Psychiatry**

Table 23. Particular health communication topic on HIV in NSTP by the Key Informant for Psychiatry.

Informant	Health Communication Topic on HIV
Key Informant for Psychiatry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deconstruction of Religious Dogmas 2. Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression 3. History of HIV/AIDS 4. Prognosis 5. Treatment of HIV/AIDS 6. Scientific breakthroughs in the quest to find a cure 7. Local Support from Non-Government Organization as well as Government Organization 8. Yearly Report and Trends 9. Demographic profile of Key Affected Population

5. Particular Health Communication Topic on HIV in the National Service Training Program of a University in Metro Manila by the **Key Informant for Sociology**

Table 24. Particular health communication topic on HIV in NSTP by the Key Informant for Sociology.

Informant	Health Communication Topic on HIV
Key Informant for Sociology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The origin of the disease 2. How this disease can be transferred from one person to another person 3. Why the disease is incurable up to this day 4. The prevention of the disease

6. Particular Health Communication Topic on HIV in the National Service Training Program of a University in Metro Manila by the **Key Informant for Technology**

Table 25. Particular health communication topic on HIV in NSTP by the Key Informant for Technology.

Informant	Health Communication Topic on HIV
Key Informant for Technology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusions of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and the like in HIV awareness 2. the use of technology as part of HIV awareness

7. Particular Health Communication Topic on HIV in the National Service Training Program of a University in Metro Manila by the **Key Informant for Cosmic Anthropology**

Table 26. Particular health communication topic on HIV in NSTP by the Key Informant for Cosmic Anthropology.

Informant	Health Communication Topic on HIV
Key Informant for Cosmic Anthropology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. History of HIV/AIDS 2. How it was started 3. The behavior of those who are infected 4. Openness and values of an individual 5. Sex education in general

8. Particular Health Communication Topic on HIV in the National Service Training Program of a University in Metro Manila by the **Key Informant for Philosophy of Self and Others**

Table 27. Particular health communication topic on HIV in NSTP by the Key Informant for Philosophy of Self and Others.

Informant	Health Communication Topic on HIV
Key Informant for Philosophy of Self and Others	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sex education in terms of chastity and abstinence 2. Promotion of true love revolution 3. Discussion for HIV awareness is the dignity of human person, respect for self and others

Based from the results of the qualitative instrument, the following are recommended HIV awareness topics given by the key informants categorized as to (1) HIV history, (2) HIV and medical education, (3) HIV and moral education, (4) use of technology in HIV awareness, and (5) the economics of HIV.

HIV History

1. The origin of the disease
2. How it was started
3. How this disease can be transferred from one person to another person
4. Why the disease is incurable up to this day
5. HIV as a fatal infection
6. Scientific breakthroughs in the quest to find a cure

HIV and Medical Education

1. Definition of HIV and AIDS
2. Difference between HIV and AIDS
3. Modes of acquisition of HIV infection
4. Signs and symptoms of HIV infection
5. Causative agent
6. Mode of Transmission
7. Pathology of HIV Infection
8. Sign and Symptoms of Aids
9. Prevention of Acquiring HIV

10. Treatment of Symptoms and Psychological Counselling of Patients

11. Management and treatment of HIV infection

HIV and Moral Education

1. Sex education in terms of chastity and abstinence
2. Promotion of true love revolution
3. Discussion for HIV awareness is the dignity of human person, respect for self and others
4. The behavior of those who are infected
5. Openness and values of an individual
6. Sex education in general and morality
7. Interventions and support groups for HIV infected individuals
8. How to help in the HIV prevention campaign "Every NSTP student can help save a life"
9. Deconstruction of Religious Dogmas
10. Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression

Use of Technology in HIV Awareness

1. Inclusions of social media such as face book, tweeter and the like in HIV awareness
2. The use of technology as part of HIV awareness
3. Rate of infection every day from the communications media

The Economics of HIV

1. Global statistics of the HIV infected
2. Local statistics of the HIV infected
3. How it affects the over-all quality of life of the infected and their immediate family members

4. The social cost of HIV infection
5. Prognosis of HIV infection and the latest developments in HIV research or any related health communication discussions
6. Local Support from Non-Government Organization as well as Government Organization
7. Yearly Report and Trends
8. Demographic profile of Key Affected Population

This study proposes that HIV awareness topics will be included in National Service Training Program (NSTP) curriculum especially that their age group are those who are infected with the virus. The numbers show that of the three NSTP components, Community Welfare Training Services (CWTS) has the most number of accomplished NSTP students. Thus, it is timely and relevant that awareness on HIV should be included in the NSTP learning among college students as they can be instruments of sharing information and communication learned regarding the health problem on HIV/AIDS.

As we all know, the NSTP is being facilitated in many higher learning institutions as a civic education and defense preparedness program for students instituted by the Government of the Philippines on 23 January 2002 by virtue of Republic Act 9163 or otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001" ("RA No. 0163", Retrieved 10 March 2017).

The declaration of the policy of NSTP states that affirmed the prime duty of the government to serve and protect its citizens. In turn, it shall be the responsibility of all citizens to defend security of the state and in fulfillment thereof, the government may require each citizen to render either of personal, military or community service.

Furthermore, the government mandate states that in recognizing the young minds' vital role in nation building, the state shall promote civic awareness and realization among the youth and shall develop their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well being among others. Moreover, it shall encourage in the youth patriotism, nationalism, and advance their participation on community and community interaction.

Significant Difference Results

The study assumed that that there are no significant difference in the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila when grouped according to respondent-related factors such as age, year level and course as they have the same intensity of purpose in using Grindr.

Also, the study assumed that there are no significant difference when grouped according to sexual role, relationships status and purpose of subscribing to Grindr as use and communication activities in the applications are similar among the respondents.

Table 28 shows that the computed value of -0.8312, which is lesser than the critical value of 2.1009 implies no significant difference on the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila according to **Age**.

As to age, whether 18 years old and below or 19 years old and above, respondents have the same views regarding HIV awareness from the communication and use of Grindr. This shows that information respondents got regarding HIV were acquired in an early first hand learning process and remained the same for both age groups.

Batiste (2013) observed that in particular, Grindr's has a potential to fulfil its purpose among its users. In particular, members subscribe to the gay dating application to generate a sense of neighbourhood as members endlessly see each other online and feel that are part of something, but not as essential for other purposes like HIV awareness and education.

Table 28. Summary of the t-Test for significant difference according to age.

Data	Computed Value	Critical Value	Level of Significance	Decision
By Age	T = -0.8312	2.1009	5% F < Crit	Not significant

Table 29 shows that the computed value of 1.338, which is lesser than the critical value of 2.699 implies no significant difference on the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila according to **Year Level**.

As to year level, the same result is true with the level of HIV awareness in the communication and use of Grindr. This study believed that there is no additional or reinforcement learning of HIV awareness, thus giving a tighter ground of introducing HIV awareness in the curriculum. This implies that what they learned about HIV during their first year in general is the same with their fourth year counterparts.

StateUniversity.com (2011) in a research found out that college students appear to be very knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS, either learned from a formal education or personal knowledge. Thus, the information learned by these college students will remain and continue as is until further informed about health related issues arising from sexual contact. Therefore, it is timelier that health communication should be introduced as part of the learning curriculum in higher education institutions.

Table 29. Summary of the ANOVA for significant difference according to year level.

Data	Computed Value	Critical Value	Level of Significance	Decision
By Year Level	F = 1.338	F = 2.699	5% F < Crit	Not significant

Table 30 shows that the computed value of 2.057, which is higher than the critical value of 1.96, implies significant difference on the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila according to **Course**.

The study had a clear-cut understanding that respondents who belonged to science courses had more HIV awareness compared to that of respondents of non-science courses. This is due to the fact that there are thorough an in-depth health discussions in the curriculum of science courses compared to that of non-science courses.

Research from The Kaiser Family Foundation (2010) has shown that an outsized proportion of young people are not really concerned about becoming infected with HIV/AIDS, unless they are more linked to acquire the infection. Adolescents who are not concerned about health communication require precise information about HIV infection and AIDS. The study added that students who are not interested about health issues, but active in sexual interactions should be educated about how to talk with their parents or other trusted adults about HIV/AIDS.

Table 30. Summary of the z-Test for significant difference according to course.

Data	Computed Value	Critical Value	Level of Significance	Decision
By Course	Z = -2.057	1.96	5% F > Crit	Significant

Table 31 shows that the computed value of 2.658, which is higher than the critical value of 2.4675, implies significant difference on the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila according to **Sexual Role**.

According to sexual role, respondents showed that in communication and use of Grindr, they have different purposes, information, views and consciousness regarding HIV infection. Those who are being penetrated as to the term “bottom” are more HIV aware than those who performs the penetrations, referred to as “top”.

Rice et. al. (2012) clearly stated that Grindr was designed and intentionally for young men having sex with men (YMSM), and not exclusively for the purpose of in search for sex partner. These populations who use Grindr practice safer sex with partners met of whom they met via the gay dating application than with partners met somewhere else. In consonance with, YMSM engaging with partners on Grindr are an especially who are in the high-risk group and should be targeted by prevention efforts.

Table 31. Summary of the ANOVA for significant difference according to sexual role.

Data	Computed Value	Critical Value	Level of Significance	Decision
By Sexual Role	F = 2.658	2.4675	5% F > Crit	Significant

Table 32 shows that the computed value of 0.558, which is lesser than the critical value of 2.1977, implies no significant difference on the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila according to **Relationship Status**.

Basing from the test of significant difference, as to relationship status, the respondents' level of HIV awareness from Grindr is not significant. The relationship respondents' have, as to the communication and use of Grindr does not affect their HIV awareness.

As elaborated by Tong and van de Wiele (2014) that although the Internet chatrooms, bulletin boards, and other online channels were sometimes used to arrange or coordinate setups in offline locations of any personal or relationship status, they also functioned as independent places for men to connect with each other in purely attractive and a more intimate contexts. Thus, there are no other issues being talked about like HIV infection and other health related matters.

Table 32. Summary of the ANOVA for significant difference according to relationship status.

Data	Computed Value	Critical Value	Level of Significance	Decision
By Relationship Status	F = 0.558	2.1977	5% F < Crit	Not significant

Table 33 shows that the computed value of 0.6452, which is lesser than the critical value of 3.0902 implies no significant difference on the “Communication and Use of Grindr in HIV Awareness among College Students in a University” according to **Grindr Purpose**.

In Grindr use, either you are looking for lifetime partner, instant sex partner, and other purposes, your views regarding HIV infection remains the same and will not matter. This is due to the fact that people may accept an individual regardless of communication and use of Grindr.

In the present time, Manalansan (2014) expounded that the communication media makes dating even easier. But it doesn't mean that users should forgo some preventative actions before meeting in person to protect themselves from any harmful activities it may bring to. These risks, including that of HIV infection risks were present before Grindr was created and with this comes the fact that even users of other websites are not safe.

Table 33. Summary of the ANOVA for significant difference according to Grindr purpose.

Data	Computed Value	Critical Value	Level of Significance	Decision
By Grindr Purpose	F = 0.6452	3.0902	5% F < Crit	Not significant

Qualitative Results

The selection of key informants for the qualitative instrument of the research on the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila was based on the different expertise.

The key informants were experts in their respective fields of research and practice and were chosen by the researcher based on their credentials. There were eight key informants for (1) Communication; (2) Health Communication; (3) Medicine; (4) Psychiatry; (5) Cosmic Anthropology; (6) Sociology; (7) Technology; and (8) Philosophy of Self and Others.

HIV Awareness among College Students

Differing Views in HIV Awareness

Key informant for philosophy self and others explained that generally, students using Grindr have differing views because they have different sexual orientation, exposures, demographic profiles, personal values, upbringing, community, and perception towards sex.

Key informant for communication added that the use of communication in Grindr basically depends on the one's personal purpose and sense of satisfaction.

Key informant for medicine said that there is differing views towards HIV infection because of the main purpose of the App, which is to socialize. Unless otherwise that there is an existing law requiring such type of application to promote awareness of HIV.

Thus, key informant for psychiatry furthers that there is really a varying beliefs from a personal, societal and religious level of points of view. Sometimes these beliefs are conflict with their desire and intention to engage with others. Adding the lack of knowledge and awareness of the topic makes it all the more dangerous.

In terms of the use of technology, key informant for technology stated that users have different purposes that we need to consider. We need to consider that technology has its' purpose depending on different users. Basically, Grindr is a gay dating application; therefore, there are only two things that we need to understand why they use Grindr. And these are for dating and for sex.

From a perspective of cosmic anthropologists, key informant for cosmic anthropology, she shared that some of the young Filipinos are constructive in using Grindr, though even parents are not yet open to the discourses regarding HIV infection. This is something to do with the Filipino culture in general.

Key informant for sociology posited that in using Grindr, they are not probably aware of HIV since they do not have the knowhow on how HIV infection can be acquired and prevented.

Key informant for health communication pointed that as they say, you don't know the impact and the knowledge of HIV infection until it hits you. Young people have this idea that they are invincible that is why they engage in activities without much thought.

Information gathered from the responses of various key informants revealed several factors influencing level of awareness on HIV/AIDS. In general, respondents are classified as millennial; who are technology savvy and are well immersed with new media tools available from any form of the new media. Also characterized as liberals, millennial have thoughts that are multi faceted and are constantly audacious in the exploration of fun and excitement. Moreover, the practice of safe sex either by gays or staring couples through the use of condoms and other forms of contraceptives is greatly dependent relative to by choice.

As explained by scholars Baams et. al. (2011), Gudelunas (2012), and Raj (2011), the alarming increase of modernization and expansion of the Internet has produced a growth in the use of technology for shared social as well as personal gratifications. Researchers elaborated what many scholars have argued that because of exposure to stress associated with organizing in

the environment, gay men have twisted to the Internet as a safe and practical space to celebrate their sexual identities and sexual activities.

Cumulative HIV Awareness from Grindr

Key informant for health communication said that the constant use of Grindr can increase HIV awareness if the user is smart enough to sue his critical thinking about health consequences. But for most of the time, this is not what is happening.

In a relative view, if the stories they shared in Grindr are about HIV, key informant for communication said that there is a cumulative HIV awareness from Grindr. But if Grindr users have other businesses in mind from the start of opening their smart phones, then we can never tell.

Key informant for cosmic anthropology added that it is actually depending on the act and the information being shared to Grindr users. What is more important in this idea is the learning of self-awareness about HIV infection.

In an analysis, key informant for psychiatry said that there is no study if the number of those using Grindr is linked with the steady rise of HIV cases reported on a daily basis. But it definitely promotes sexual behavior. It fuels the spread of infection.

Thus, key informant for medicine believed that awareness of HIV can successfully be done through Health Education using correct channels like traditional teaching methods to critical age groups. Consequently, the important matter needed to address is, if there is a particular study that justify in which technologically inclined HIV infected groups is as the same number with HIV infected groups on areas without smart phone and social media subscription.

On the other hand, key informant for communication said that there is no cumulative HIV Awareness from Grindr as it still depends on the person engaging with the technology.

Key informant for sociology answered definitely no. The application itself offers the users several options and it depends on the kind of option and purposes they are into.

Key informant for philosophy of self and others communication concurred that in using Grindr, you are not thinking about HIV when in Grindr, but as a human person, it is philosophical that one is thinking about dates and instant sex.

Qualitative results explained that in using Grindr, the bottom line is that students gratify their physiologic need for sex through the use of gay dating application—Grindr—which is tantamount to increasing their risk of infection to the HIV virus. Though, key informants adhere that there is no

study available yet that can justify the increasing number of infected individuals to the number of Grindr users, the medium on how students behave in the use of Grindr is inevitable.

Bauermeister et. al. (2011) in a research surmises that nonetheless, notwithstanding the potentiality for other research topics of interest on health communication, the bulk of previous researchers with regard to gay men and the Internet has commonly centered on risky sexual behaviors such as unprotected anal intercourse that poses the spread of HIV/AIDS. Moreover, access to the Internet access leads to addiction of pornographic materials that are acceptable and normal behavior.

Grindr as a Tool for HIV Awareness

Key informant for health communication believed that collectively, Grindr has a possibility to be a tool for HIV awareness among users. Such, there is a possibility depending on the users.

Key informant for medicine added that in the advancement of technology, Grindr can be one tool to spread awareness regarding the medical treatment of HIV.

In a psychological perspective, key informant for psychiatry knew that Grindr can be utilized as a Tool for HIV Awareness by helping the person think twice on the thought of protecting themselves before engaging in sexual activities.

Key informant for cosmic anthropology also affirmed that it is possible. The responsible use of technology can be a good topic in service learning among students, thus can be used as a tool in HIV awareness.

The same understanding was shared by key informant for sociology. She said that since Grindr capitalizes in communication, dating and relationship, there is a huge possibility that Grindr can be used as a tool in HIV awareness.

Though key informant for philosophy of self and others certainly believed in the usefulness of Grindr in HIV awareness, she has reservations since Grindr is a gay dating application and has the purpose of looking for dates that will fall on instant sex among the same gender.

Key informant for technology added that it is actually depending on the thrust Grindr. But it seems that Grindr is for dating and there is no other way to filter whether users are adults who can understand enough what HIV/AIDS is. But in general, it can be a tool in promoting HIV awareness.

Key informant for communication has an interesting view shared. She said that Grindr will never be a tool for HIV awareness. Another app that will counter Grindr should, in fact, be developed to protect the young people from sexual activities that will land them to health diseases like HIV.

Majority of the key informants shared that level of HIV awareness among Grindr users can be increased with the use of the same application. Though, this should be coupled with correct relevant information about HIV prevention needed must be properly installed within the features of Grindr. Key informants added that Grindr has the purpose of meeting men to men of the same preferences. The idea that Grindr can be used as a tool in promoting HIV awareness remains open for discussion.

Toch and Levi (2012) explained that in using Grindr, individuals can select and search for potential chatters based on their individual preferences. They added that Grindr gives users the ability to locate partners using a central based technology. This feature is unique to people nearby applications and allows users to quickly translate online connections to actual interactions, thus, creating the gap between online and physical environments.

HIV Awareness Acquired from Grindr Use

Grindr Technology and HIV Awareness

Key informant for cosmic anthropology stated that the role of Grindr can benefit the society with regard to HIV awareness. By chance, in the Philippines for instance, Grindr can make partnership with government organizations like the Department of health, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education as well other people's organization.

Also, key informant for sociology enumerated that some of the roles of Grindr among the youth are entertainment, satisfaction, and contentment and not only for HIV awareness. It also includes expounding your clout.

Key informant for technology confirmed that in the use of technology, the role of Grindr is simply putting all things that a user needed for, dating, sex and other purposes.

Key informant for health communication further assessed that Grindr users subscribe to it that is what it is growing or at least sustaining itself.

Although it can enhance one's familiarity to technology, key informant for communication strongly felt that on the dark side, it pushes addiction to multiple sex partners.

Key informant for medicine further added that the app helps parties meet, explore and take advantage of easy sex. The Youth of today may be a little different compared to the youth of the previous decades, in terms of socialization and idea of sex.

In psychological perspectives, key informant for psychiatry assessed that in the age of cloud computing and internet, in Grindr, people need access as soon as they can and when they can. This is essential in order to help knowledge and application purposes. You can have everything that you wanted in one place, your phone. Once you have the application installed,

then you can explore and find the meaning and the purpose that you wanted to.

In general, key informant for philosophy of self and others understood the different role of Grindr. The role of Grindr among the youth of today is to increase HIV infection. The equation is that promiscuous behavior is equals to HIV infection.

Socially speaking, key informants stated that the dating technology using Grindr increases the chances for parties to meet and socialize, and it is doing its job with great success among those who patronizes and believing in the content of the application. Thus, fuelling sexual desires and behaviors for sex and socialization occurs in the process of conversation and exchanges of texts and visuals.

Tong and van de Wiele (2014) chain the key informants' analysis that in Grindr, both online and offline gay boundaries often required gay men to choose the difference between behavior and personal orientation. However, because Grindr's technology situates spaces, these boundaries are now much more liquefied.

Grindr Affecting Attitude in HIV Awareness

Key informant for philosophy of self and others said that we as human being living in this world cannot tell the minds of the others. It is actually depending on the purpose of the user. The more fact that you wanted to meet

somebody or a stranger from Grindr, then your HIV awareness is not your priority.

Key informant for sociology reiterated that the affects of using Grindr varies. It depends on who is using it, depending on the user's knowledge, opinion, attitude and behavior.

Though key informant for health communication added that it can affect the users by thinking first before engaging in any unprotected sexual acts, it is still basically depending on one's purpose and personal satisfaction.

In Grindr, key informant for communication mentioned that many of its users will be more addicted to sex.

Key informant for medicine affirmed that people using the app can become more proactive to sex, proactive to practice safe sex, and increase the risk of exposure to the virus.

Also, key informant for psychiatry added that Grindr gay dating application can enable the person to have an accessible discreet access to support systems available locally.

Key informant for technology said that it will never make any impact on the awareness. Unless they have the infection with them, it's the time now that they will be aware of the infection. The sad part of technology is, it can be

a domino effect. Once infected, they can still use Grindr and let others infected with the virus.

In a relative statement, key informant for cosmic anthropology shared that there should be acceptance of those who have HIV infection in the society. We need to help them and they can also help us by showing how it hurts to be infected. They are the living testimony.

In general, key informants avowed that each individual attitude and behavior varies, and their response in understanding and willingness to accept the facts about HIV/AIDS differs from each other. The only similarity is that the respondents are using the same media to interact, thus, the urge is present while accessing the tool then knowing the risks may come in thought.

As Brown (2013) explained, the design and ubiquity of Grindr offer a unique blend of offline and online scenarios. The gay dating applications itself advertises its capability to position other men within closeness. Also, Grindr can provide virtual and physical access to other users along with geographic and chronological nearness. As a result, many gay men using Grindr expect to achieve multiple and specific outcomes from its subscription.

HIV Awareness of Future Grindr Users

Key informant for health communication gave an interesting point that the future Grindr users might be alarmed of HIV infection if we give them the

growing numbers of infected individuals, the physical manifestation of the disease and other morbid things related to HIV infection.

Key informant for medicine said that for future Grindr users, individual awareness on HIV is a must for every individual who engage on unprotected sexual activities. Grindr ads about HIV awareness can help however, learning should always start in the classroom, as this will target the concerned group as well as others.

Therefore, key informant for technology, in view of an expert in technology emphasized that Grindr users should be vigilance and be responsible in using technology. The technology today is tempting and can put you to harm when not use properly according to its function.

Key informant for psychiatry suggested that Grindr can create a profile account for every user that features maximum as well as reachable proximity. Grindr can have HIV officers on call to answer questions directly on people nearby applications.

Key informant for cosmic anthropology also added that more and more awareness are much needed. Involvement of different sectors of the society in the information about HIV infection is much needed. There is a need of a transfer of learning.

Key informant for sociology suggested further that there should be an inclusion in the portion of the gay dating application where the users will have the chance to get updates about HIV.

Key informant for communication viewed that using Grindr to promote HIV prevention is not going to work given the nature of the application and its medium.

However, key informant for philosophy of self and others suggested that Grindr should be responsible enough to educate their users about HIV infection. Thus, there should be a feature in Grindr regarding health education. But this is not the scenario as Grindr is a dating application that is promoting HIV infection instead.

The Grindr users are highly at risk of exposure to the HIV virus according to the key informants. Inclusion of features in the gay dating application that can help spread of HIV awareness is to be considered. Key informants discussed an interesting point that the nature of the Grindr is not in favour HIV awareness but rather sexual arousal. Thus, an outcast of the numbers of HIV infected in the Philippines who possess Grindr must be actively visible in many media platforms. With this regard, this will aid users of Grindr to be aware of risks in HIV infection.

In global perspectives, Wortham (2013) elaborated that because of Grindr popularity in the United States of America and the rest of the world, both the popular press and academic literature have speculated on how and why men get satisfied from the use Grindr. Thus, this explained that in the Philippines setting, the use of Grindr mimics the same sense, process, and purpose.

Learning and Accomplishment when Engaging in Grindr Use

Personal Satisfaction Users Get from Grindr

Key informant for technology explained that having the application is like having a new phone. Key informant expounded that no one else can tell with regard to personal satisfaction that users get from Grindr as technology is continuing to occupy space of humanity every day.

Moreover, it will be here to stay. On the other hand, using Grindr for a personal purpose is a different story. HIV awareness is not being talked in gay dating applications like Grindr and posted an anecdote that nobody wanted to tell that he has HIV infection.

Key informant for health communication supported the idea that it's easy for them to pick up anybody and they can avoid the lousily during first dates. Also people who go to apps like this knows exactly what they are looking for so everything is a given.

Key informant for psychiatry assumed that the easy access to support systems like Grindr has psychological mind conditioning among its users.

Immediate sexual gratification and satisfy physiologic need for sex is one of the personal satisfaction in the use of Grindr, said Dr. Marc Joseph Seguban. He added that uphold of integrity in the act of sex without risking one's health for HIV aware individuals.

Although, key informant for cosmic anthropology assumed that some of which are curiosity, they are being challenge by peers, and the most acceptable and common of all will be sexual urge among young people.

Key informant for sociology furthered that in Grindr, users are basically happy in meeting the people that they liked. The key informant was not sure if users are satisfied with Grindr because it reminds them to be safe, thus becoming aware of HIV.

Philosophically speaking, key informant for self and others explained that the satisfaction that one can get from Grindr is the increased exposure to as many gay in your neighbourhood as you can with a single swipe of your finger. Grindr had helped people of the same attitude and preference to decrease face-to-face interaction and save time. But when liking each other and liking Grindr in a progressing manner, health infection like HIV might occur.

Customarily, key informant for communication discussed that the common satisfaction is the sexual interaction that came from Grindr, but not in relation to HIV awareness.

The common knowledge that the key informants shared with regard to the personal satisfaction that users get from Grindr was obvious—meeting and mating. While curiosity is one factor why users subscribe to Grindr, personal awareness regarding HIV still depends on individuals motivation as the basic satisfaction users get from Grindr is sexual interaction and not HIV awareness.

Tong and van de Wiele (2014) in a study on the specific user motivations of a form of ever-present computing known as Grindr affirmed that the gay dating applications was developed and designed specifically for gay men looking for instant sex and lifetime partner. In their study, they dispute that the integration of geographical location data in Grindr has significantly changed the way gay and bisexual men move towards communal connectivity by breaking down the boundaries that beforehand governed substantial spaces through easy contact.

Outcome of Grindr on Users' HIV Awareness

Key informant for cosmic anthropology has a positive view that the use of Grindr can help a lot in HIV awareness. It will lessen the infection among young people through knowledge sharing. Or in the other hand, it can be a

reverse of what we expect. Also, it depends on how they introduce HIV awareness and share the knowledge among themselves. Also, there should be a follow-up knowledge sharing so that they would know if there are any new findings about the infection.

Frequent use of Grindr, as key informant for health communication reiterated might result for the users to become more aware of the disease, and in the long run, hoping they will protect themselves better from HIV infection.

Key informant for communication agreed that through the use of Grindr and perhaps hearing stories from other users, one possibility is to lessen the incidents of HIV infection.

Similarly, key informant for psychiatry stated with the purpose of fast answers from sources that have firsthand experience or who is competent, HIV awareness through Grindr is visible.

Key informant for sociology had the reservation with the intention of Grindr if it is effective in influencing the attitude and perception of the users. If it is, then it can be a powerful tool of communication to educate users in relation to HIV awareness.

Despite the fact that key informant for medicine is a medical doctor by profession, he stated that there is no possible outcome with the Grindr with regard to HIV awareness HIV awareness. This is because the application will never tell you about abstract of patients and literature on HIV infection.

Key informant for technology mentioned that Grindr as well as all other gay dating application is like a masked that is hiding its purpose. Technology of Grindr was made purely for business. So, we cannot qualify as to how extend Grindr make HIV awareness among users. It's still a personal choice of submitting yourself to somebody that you don't know. When you unmasked them, then that's the time you would realized that you are already infected with HIV.

Key informant for philosophy of self and others discussed that the purpose of Grindr is definitely not HIV awareness. But most of the time if not all the time, the purpose of Grindr is meeting gay people for instant sex. The moment they get HIV infection, then they will be aware of the virus.

Key informants showed the idea that the major outcome that Grindr can contribute to HIV awareness is vague. It is clear that Grindr is a gay dating application and the communication of users in Grindr is not about HIV awareness, but instant sex at a common space and convenience. In human nature, even though one is infected, there is a little chance of disclosure about exposure to infection.

As Manalansan (2014) pointed out, the present times have changed and the new technology is advancing at an extremely alarming speed. The human connection has evolved from virtual to physical. Nowadays, individuals need not arrange personal meet-ups in order to break the gap of communication as all it takes is a touch over a smart phone that an individual has.

Challenges of Learning HIV Awareness in Grindr Use

Key informant for communication seen that the most important challenge is to have teachers or facilitators with impeccable moral integrity and who fully adhere to the idea of promoting and respecting man's innate dignity, and thus, have a correct understanding of human sexuality. It is not just a matter of teaching students about "safety" and "protection," the methods of which have been proven to be ineffective in preventing HIV in many studies. Respect for one's and other's body, the idea of temperance, self-control, self-discipline, etc. need to be emphasized. Young people also need to be helped/encouraged to pursue productive, self-enhancing, other-oriented activities that would not only benefit them as individuals, but which will also benefit their family, community, society.

Key informant for medicine stated that the religious community may disagree on the idea of learning HIV awareness through Grindr use. Conservative families may also further express their concern regarding the personal fulfillment through Grindr use. In one hand, there might lack of

government support and funding. Also, early maturity and psychological acceptance of the concept of sex by the students is one of the learning challenges.

Key informant for psychiatry jointly agreed that common misconceptions that need to be addressed such as taboos and belief systems is as important as learning HIV awareness. Trainers that are not fully knowledgeable of the topic might spread wrong information and make matters worse through creating more stigmas.

Other challenges of learning HIV awareness through Grindr use according to key informant for cosmic anthropology are the proper training among lecturer. Lecturer should be knowledgeable enough so that students will not be misled about the information. On the other hand, there are many Christian universities in the Philippines that might have troubles in introducing the HIV awareness lecture. Unless this is a government education curriculum, then a full swing of the initiative can be conducted accordingly.

Key informant for sociology enumerated that the challenges in introducing HIV awareness in NSTP class through Grindr use are: (1) evaluation of the enhanced critical thinking to better appreciate the topic, (2) HIV awareness may not be included yet in the NSTP curriculum, therefore may need approval of concerned institutions and agencies, (3) lack of experts who can deliver the lectures or instruction without being boring to the

NSTP students, (4) training the teachers to be effective in teaching regarding HIV infection, (5) designing of activities that will supplement the lectures for students to be able to absorb, better comprehend, apply, and recall the knowledge learned, and (6) designing teaching methods and strategies that will make the HIV lectures more interesting and meaningful.

In addition, key informant for communication foreseen that in learning HIV awareness, resources should be considered and one and logistics. Sustainability can also be an issue. Another is the cultural and social effects.

In one hand, key informant for technology perceived that one of the major challenges is on how we can explain to the students the importance of technology by not comprising their health, like being HIV infected. We need to understand that the Philippines is a country that is more likely to inclined in mobile technology, thus, it is a challenge to connect the disadvantages of technological advancement against learning HIV infection.

Key informant for philosophy of self and others concluded that young age make light of everything like mental health and sexual health. When transformed into adult mind and level of maturity, they will be opened and serious of protecting themselves from HIV infection.

Key informants stated that there are sectors as well as factors that are needed to be considered when discussion of addressing the learning methods of HIV awareness applied through Grindr use. For one, in what way can be

explained to many users of Grindr harm is susceptible from that source of technology when user is unaware of its consequences. The application now becomes an accessory to the crime. In the same manner, in what way can technology be harnessed as a medium of education as part of a campaign to raise HIV awareness. In the education sector, majority of HIV infected—the students—should have ample knowledge about HIV and must pose as links to HIV/AIDS education. In another note, challenges would be a consideration on how conservative thoughts would approve the idea of introducing HIV competency as part of the education curriculum.

Fernandez (2013) analyzed that with the bigger roles of technology and social media in today's world is taking most of time on a daily basis of an individual. It comes as no revelation that it has already explored the reality of saga and dating. An individual should only need to search as well as download a particular dating applications to begin and selecting from thousand of attractive accounts within proximity.

Communication of Grindr regarding HIV Infection

The Rate of Communication of Grindr regarding HIV Infection

Key informant for medicine said that students may become proactive in performing sexual acts with protected sex. Spread of STDs and HIV/AIDS may be reduced. On a relative view, premarital sex occurrence may increase as this may elicit acceptance in the community rather than abstinence.

Also, reduced number of abortions and unwanted pregnancies as long safe sex is practiced.

Key informant for communication felt that young students will have added knowledge of HIV infection which they can use to protect themselves. Also, sex maybe openly discussed among the young learners in Grindr in the absence of and without proper guidance of parents and or teachers. On contrary, without right values, the communication consequence of Grindr will most likely trap into HIV infection.

In general, through the communication and use of Grindr with regard to HIV infection, students become aware of the consequences of their actions, said key informant for health communication.

As to the rate of communication of Grindr regarding HIV infection, Key informant for philosophy of self and others shared that hopefully, students as well as other users will value sex as an ultimate end, which is procreation. The pleasure that comes with sexual act, philosophically is good for procreation. Also, sexual pleasure is a good that facilitates procreation which eventually makes sexual act attractive.

Key informant for technology observed that the youth of today is very active in using new media. Exploring the applications like Grindr might put them into catch of being infected to HIV. Thus, further communication and use of Grindr might invite them to explore the dating application.

In communication of Grindr regarding HIV infection, key informant for psychiatry explained that there might be some psychological impact like giving the students sound options to explore the application that is tantamount to exploring addiction to sex.

Therefore, key informant for cosmic anthropology believed that it is safe among users if they understand a clear thinking with regard to the pros and cons of the infection communicated through Grindr use.

In contrary, the HIV awareness discussions in Grindr might give those options to engage in sex as they have somehow knowledge of how to protect themselves from the infection.

Key informant for sociology contemplated that the rate of communication of Grindr regarding HIV infection are similar to disadvantages. But when talking about the communication of Grindr in learning HIV awareness, the key informant thought that the education sector in the country is not yet ready to introduce HIV topic as part of the curriculum. It is because it does not have prepared materials or references that underwent evaluation.

Moreover, materials that can be used by educators or mentors in mentoring their students about HIV are still yet to be prepared, especially in the communication of Grindr and HIV awareness.

Key informants, in general explained that there should be a clear thinking with regard to the use of Grindr and learning experiences from technology which is part of globalization. In a globalized world, it is important that human, especially students should also be updated with the modern times. In consonance with, the rate of communication of Grindr regarding HIV still depends on individual consumption of technology. Using Grindr or any other dating applications would be coupled with responsible utilization of technology.

As Tan (2015) reported in a study, in the Philippines, many Grindr's users are single (78%), of which many are looking for instant sex (26%) and there are those who are looking for lifetime partner (29%). The effect of Grindr on each of the five million users around the globe varies depending on the purpose and motivation. But one thing for sure is that it widens the horizon for gay men to find forecast for either sex or feel affection for—or even both.

Sexual Behavior, Grindr Users and Implications to Human Health

Key informant for philosophy of self and others positioned that in some sense, the sexual behavior among user of Grindr can be ignited further as the dating application can be a venue to exchange topics about sexual acts and behavior that users can learn from.

Sexual behavior among users of Grindr is possible according to key informant for health communication as Grindr is a gay dating application designed for sex meeting. In the long run, users would never think of its implication to their health.

In affirmation, key informant for communication clarified that what's at risk is not just human health problem, but, a problem that the youth and the young minds will face in the future.

Also, key informant for medicine asserted that the purpose of the app like Grindr is to maximize socialization among gay and bisexual and straight men. Health implication on social behaviors is merely a choice.

Key informant for sociology continued that in the first place, it is the very intention of the gay dating application to make communication of the same orientation and preferences. Thus, facilitates behavior regarding sexual attitude among its users.

Because the primary intent of using Grindr is to solicit sexual favours from anonymous individuals nearby, key informant for psychiatry divulged that communication of Grindr is a risky activity and exposes the person's health to infection.

Key informant for cosmic anthropology stated that sexual behavior among users of Grindr is never been a connection in the implications to human health. It is the attitude of the young minds to be opened to new media

at all times. Therefore, schools as well as parents should guide their children regarding the consequences of Grindr and other gay dating applications.

Key informant for technology tightened the arguments of other key informants that Grindr is a dating application for gays and homosexual. Hence, once addicted to Grindr, it is tantamount to addicted to sex.

In the sexual behavior among users of Grindr and implications in human health, key informants shared some very attention-grabbing viewpoints. It can be therefore surmised that if measures of intervention are not currently in place within the applications structure in order, such as to safeguard users' health, Grindr in itself poses a threat to the health of a generation, of a society, and of a nation.

This in turn poses a risk to a key affected population. Also, this poses a risk to the stability of manpower recruitment as qualified educated men of adolescence get sick or dies sooner than expected or planned.

With regard to the HIV infection solicited from Grindr dating, Manalansan (2014) explained that indeed, there are certain risks in online dating. These risks are evident in many news and literature available for references. Stories have been told about people who deliberately spread the infection and it has been a common fear among people subscribing to Grindr.

Grindr Communication towards HIV Awareness

Key informant for technology surmised that Grindr can communicate HIV awareness if they have a biotechnology that explores stories of people how they get HIV infection. Also, the soft side is, when there are users who are sharing their stories and tell others that they have HIV, then, this answer the question that a Grindr communicate HIV to users.

In Grindr communication towards HIV awareness, key informant for medicine supposed that an agreed consent between parties is a must whether to engage in protected or unprotected sex. HIV aware Grindr users often would choose safe sex.

Key informant for communication presumed that in order to for Grindr to help its users against HIV infection, Grindr facilitators or business owners should make more information and warnings regarding HIV infection.

In a different view, key informant for psychiatry shared an intelligent analysis that that either taken lightly, seriously or disregarded. It either diffuses the intent of the profile owner to proceed with his desire or snub the profile promoting HIV awareness.

Similarly, key informant for cosmic anthropology understood that Grindr has the purpose to match men within the area. Thus, the intention of communication HIV awareness from the application is impossible.

Key informant for health communication concurred that it impossible for them to communicate HIV as the purpose of the app is for dating and mating. Though the key informant assumed that they can get stories from those who are infected with the virus, this is just still a thin possibility.

Since it's a gay dating application, key informant for sociology suggested that Grindr should have is a constant reminder among the users to be safe or careful in dealing with or having sex with their acquaintances.

Because Grindr has different purpose, audiences as well as nature of application, key informant for philosophy of self and others challenged that if Grindr is willing to make risk of their investments, which she supposed that Grindr is not willing to, as they are purely for dating and finding sex, they can use accreditation among organizations for HIV testing for members anywhere in the world. This can be an add-on feature in the apps.

Key informants strongly suggest that there is a need for a call for dialogue on proper modes of intervention is therefore in order and thus seeks the attention of Grindr software makers to provide a holistic approach for the protection of users well being across the World Wide Web.

In using Grindr, Fernandez (2013) shared that there are dangers and precautions like any other gay dating applications. Most gay people use the apps to find sex. With this, you have the tendency to meet up with all kinds of people. Customarily, because of this scenario, an individual wouldn't know

where they have been and what they have done or if they have sexually-transmitted diseases and other related health infections.

HIV Awareness in the National Service Training Program (NSTP)

Important topics of HIV awareness in NSTP

In medical expert perspectives, key informant for medicine suggested the following topics that can be included in HIV awareness: (1) Definition of HIV and Aids, (2) Difference between HIV and AIDS, (3) Causative agent, (4) Mode of Transmission, (5) Pathology of HIV Infection, (6) Sign and Symptoms of Aids, (7) Prevention of Acquiring HIV, and (8) Treatment of Symptoms and Psychological Counselling of Patients.

In psychological expert perspectives, key informant for psychiatry suggested the following topics that can be included in HIV awareness: (1) Deconstruction of Religious Dogmas, (2) Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression, (3) History of HIV/AIDS, (4) Prognosis, (5) Treatment, (6) Scientific breakthroughs in the quest to find a cure, (7) Local Support from Non-Government Organization as well as Government Organization, and (8) Yearly Report and Trends, Demographic profile of Key Affected Population.

In philosophical expert perspectives, key informant for philosophy of self and others suggested that it is important to include topic on sex education in terms of chastity and abstinence. A promotion of true love revolution which

means that true love waits until marriage with one partner only. Even if they have homosexual relationship, there should only be one partner that they will have in the rest of their lives. Another thing that is an important discussion for HIV awareness is the dignity of human person, respect for self and others.

In communication expert perspectives, key informant for communication suggested that suggested the following topics that can be included in HIV awareness: (1) HIV as a fatal infection, (2) Rate of infection every day, (3) Modes of acquisition of HIV infection, (4) Signs and symptoms of HIV infection, (5) Management and Treatment of HIV infection, (5) Prognosis of HIV infection and the latest developments in HIV research, (6) Prevention, (7) Interventions and support groups for HIV infected individuals, and (8) How to help in the HIV prevention campaign "Every NSTP student can help save a life".

She added that the most important topic to be included is that students' thinking towards prevention. This should be emphasized. Since HIV-infected individuals are getting younger and younger, it's important to understand the why of risky behaviors and to use a holistic approach by integrating positive youth development.

In health communication expert perspectives, key informant for health communication said that the importance of Global Statistics of the infected, local statistics, how it affects the over-all quality of life of the infected and their

immediate family members and the social cost of the disease should be part of the HIV awareness discussions.

In technology expert perspectives, key informant for technology said that discussions on HIV awareness can be included through social media such as Facebook, Twitter and the like. Thus, modern technology is very useful as part of the learning process regarding HIV awareness to be included in NSTP. Also, the use of technology as part of the information dissemination topic can be of great help.

In cosmic anthropology expert perspectives, key informant for cosmic anthropology shared that some possible topics that can be included in HIV awareness are the basics, like its history, how it was started, the behavior of those who are infected, openness and values of an individual, and sex education in general.

In sociology expert perspectives, key informant for sociology added that other significant topics or issues which should be included in making people (students) aware of HIV infection are: (1) the origin of the disease, (2) how this disease can be transferred from one person to another person, (3) why the disease is incurable up to this day, and (4) the prevention of the disease.

An important point to reflect upon from key informants is that Grindr application provides an avenue for self exploratory discovery and raising issues of health and stigma may elude its primary vision and mission as a gay dating application to begin with. It may dampen participation and mood among its users if HIV is taken into limelight. This might affect sponsorship, advertisement and member loyalty. Therefore a discrete approach must exist within its infrastructure so as to act modestly addressing issues on HIV awareness. This is a human rights issue both to the key affected population and the prospective user.

Gan and Sanidad (2014) furthers that the overwhelming popularity of gay dating applications could lie in their intrinsic expediency and the experience elicited from this can be both positive and negative. After all, anything that can expedite as a process will be as complicated as modern-day dating. Simply put that is has to have even a fraction of both good point and demerit.

Advantages of Introducing HIV Awareness in NSTP

In general, key informant for cosmic anthropology believed that Introducing HIV Awareness in National Service Training Program (NSTP) will help students to have the first hand information from their teachers regarding HIV infection.

Obviously, key informant for sociology enumerated that there are many advantages of HIV awareness in NSTP program, vis: (1) it allows the students to escape the case of getting infected, (2) it can be use by students in educating their families, relatives, peers and colleagues, (3) being able to introduce HIV awareness at the right age and adolescent stage, (4) having a captive audience subjected to NSTP discipline, (5) maximizing reach among the youth, as NSTP is required in all schools, (6) NSTP is a potentially strong link between experts and those needing expert advice, and (7) it is possible the way to decrease the number of those who are infected.

Key informant health communication for believed that through the introduction of HIV awareness in NSTP, young people become more aware of protective tools that would make them responsible adults. They will also be aware that acquiring diseases like HIV have great impact not only in their life but their immediate family as well.

Also, key informant for medicine said that the advantages of introducing HIV awareness in NSTP are increased level of awareness of HIV can help prevent the spread of the virus; help individuals specifically students with unprotected sexual habits to prevent infection and be subjected to testing for the presence of the virus; help students in disseminating health education to other people; and remove the stigma or misconceptions about AIDS.

Key informant for psychiatry firmly thinks forward that introducing HIV awareness in NSTP will result for Short, Medium to Long Term competency of the individual where ever they may be. A core or in-depth knowledge of the actions might save a person they know who are infected. Memory recall of these trainings for future engagements is very useful. The individual can be a right medium or channel for intervention through proper dialogue and communication engaging in real time taboos and rectifying stigma. Also, the idea will be effective for school whose programs are geared towards overseas jobs among colleges and universities. Also effective for social work in the churches and communities for first hand experiences.

Key informant for technology positioned that the advantages that NSTP can do in HIV awareness are (1) direct contact to the target audiences which are the students and on the age range of HIV infected patients, (2) full learning attention in the cause and effect of using technology among the youth, (3) advantageous technological advancement that helped people aware of HIV infection, and (4) the communication process that technology can bring among its users.

In different views, key informant for communication does not think NSTP is the right venue to gives what it stands for and what its aims are. Some schools offer a two-unit Personality Development courses. Special seminars that include not just the medical aspect but also the sociological and moral aspects of the problems and issues may be considered as well.

An interesting view was added by key informant for philosophy of self and others who said that one of the advantages that I can identify with is that addiction to sexual activities can be avoided which HIV/AIDS can be avoided.

Key informants believed that the introduction of HIV awareness to the direct age group (college students) may help reduce the risks of HIV infection. Early awareness will help in the prevention process. The students will be more mature in their views towards engaging in sexual acts. Key informants added that we cannot totally eradicate HIV infection at the present. However, what we can do is to prevent the spread of the virus, better than doing nothing at all.

The Centers for Disease Control (2005) report noted that mostly of the young people are at persistent of high risk for HIV infection. Therefore, continual HIV prevention outreach and education efforts should be put at priority in education and in the community. Some of the helpful initiatives include programs on self pleasure and on delaying the initiation of sex. These are helpful for the new generations to replace the generations that benefited from earlier impediment.

Disadvantages of Introducing HIV Awareness in NSTP

Key informant for communication said that there are three disadvantages if introducing HIV awareness in the curriculum: (1) may not be in the NSTP curriculum; (2) maybe misinterpreted as teaching sex education;

and (3) the lectures may eat up a lot of time needed for community service; and (4) may turn out to be boring and ineffective as NSTP classes are big in number and usually held in open grounds where acoustics are quite bad.

Key informant for health communication added that one indirect result might be the misconception that they can freely engage in sexual acts since they have more options in terms of protection. However, the key informant personally does not believe that the disadvantage outweighs.

Key informant for technology furthered that one of the major disadvantages he can identify with as technology expert in introducing HIV awareness in NSTP program in technology is the learning process. One consideration is the availability of authentic online learning materials and other multi-media materials.

Also, the availability of information technology and teacher training to arrive at the objectivity of the purpose through technology used should be considered.

Key informant for psychiatry furthered that in a psychological analysis, there might be an uncomfortable idea to the privacy of the individual receiving training when confronted. This is a human rights issue that needs to be addressed by a certified competent trainer. Also, it might promote more promiscuity among men and masculinity in the promotion of contraceptives and it might shake the foundations of their belief systems.

In a similar view, key informant for cosmic anthropology said that one of the disadvantages might be a form of encouraging students in sex, granting that they have informed and learned about HIV and how it can be infected to human.

Key informant for sociology seconded that there might be a possible increase in number of victims because of the information given to them. Also, it might create fear or they might get paranoid especially those who are sexually active.

The same idea had been shared by key informant for philosophy of self and others that the introduction of HIV awareness in NSTP might provoke curiosity, since young people are adventurous. They might try having sex when introduced to the lesson either with or without protection.

Though key informant for medicine, in a medical field of interests avowed that there is no disadvantage, as this is a modern epidemic in the country and in the world, this needs to be addressed. Awareness of the disease is an ultimate proof why we have eradicated some diseases, such as Polio and Smallpox.

Introduction of knowledge regarding HIV to the target age groups, according to the key informants will going to entice their curiosity towards engaging in sex, either both safe and unsafe. Individuals may use dating

technology more, thus increasing their risks to HIV infection and other health related problems.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2003) revealed in a report that young men having sex with men (MSM) are at high risk for HIV infection and other health problems, but their risk factors and the prevention barriers they face differ from those of persons who become infected through other forms of contact. According to the study, many men do not reveal that they are attracted with the same sex. MSM who do not disclose their sexual orientation are less likely to seek HIV testing, so if they become infected, they are less likely to know it.

Chapter 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This study used a one-shot survey design with key informant interviews as triangulate measure to determine the communication and use of Grindr in HIV awareness among college students in a private university in Metro Manila as basis in introducing health communication subjects.

Specifically, it looked into (1) the level of HIV awareness among respondents when classified as to respondent-related factors; (2) the specific HIV awareness the respondents acquired during the Grindr activities; (3) the exact objective, mutual, and emotional fulfilment the respondents search for to accomplish when engaging in Grindr use; and (4) how Grindr communicate on the consciousness of the college students regarding HIV infection that they can acquire through sexual activities. The final output was to determine what particular health communication topic on HIV can be proposed in the National Service Training Program in a university in Metro Manila.

The survey questionnaire was self-developed for both one hundred college students and eight key informants. On the other hand, the developed questionnaire of Carey, Morrison-Beedy and Johnson (1997) on HIV-Knowledge Questionnaire was used to determine the knowledge on

HIV of the college students. The qualitative questionnaire for key informants was used to compliment the results of the quantitative data. Both research instruments had been validated by three experts for face and content.

Thereafter, the raw data were encoded and statistically treated for analysis and interpretation employing the (1) percentage method, (2) mean, (3) standard deviation, (4) t-test, (5) Z-test, (6) rank and (7) one-way analysis of variance or ANOVA.

On the other hand, results from the qualitative instruments were arranged in a matrix. Positive to negative responses of the key informants were arranged and trimmed altogether for analysis of the content and responses. The results were presented in a thematic format.

On Socio-Demographic Profile

Findings from socio-demographic profile of the study showed that as to age, those who are 19 years old and above has mature awareness than that of those who belonged to 18 years old and below. As to the year level, respondents who belonged to the second year are more likely to be aggressive in their learning of HIV compare to that of other year level. Also, it is given that science courses had the highest level of HIV awareness compared to that of non-science courses.

Results from respondents' Grindr immersion revealed that as to sexual role, those who are versatile bottom (the one who can be penetrated but can do the penetration) were highly aware while on the other hand, top (the one who is doing the penetration only) had less awareness in sexual role. Moreover, those who are in exclusive relationships status are those who are highly aware of HIV while those who were partnered have less HIV awareness.

On the other hand, while there are respondents who engaged in Grindr not for the purpose of sexual activities (trading, services like massage, events, or community announcements), their HIV awareness was regarded as less. Respondents who were looking for instant sex partners showed that they are more aware of HIV infection.

On Specific HIV Knowledge Acquired during Grindr Activities

Findings as to the specific HIV knowledge respondents acquired during Grindr activities revealed that they had gained some practical knowledge about HIV through the use of gay dating applications. It has a positive hope that respondents show some sense of concern about their health. Findings can be interpreted as before they engage in sexual activities, they have knowledge on HIV infection.

In addition, college students using Grindr talk about safe sex which encouraged others to do the same as Grindr itself has HIV status profile for every member to view from. In addition, results showed that Grindr members

require safe sex before meeting for fun as many of the members of the dating applications are choosy in dealing with partners.

An interesting viewpoint regarding the specific HIV awareness that college students acquired from Grindr is that prior to using the gay dating applications, they have basic knowledge about HIV either taught previously from health related subjects or read literatures.

On Objective, Mutual, and Emotional Fulfilment from Grindr Use

College students affirmed that Grindr maximizes the chances of meeting individuals within their locality. The gay dating applications enables them to specify their profiles, for them attract individuals that they desire and what individual they wanted to meet. At the end, Grindr helps in communicating as well as fulfilling the outcome and the purpose of once desire to explore possibilities.

Results of the study revealed an interesting viewpoint. A view from the college students that Grindr is much favoured compared to other gay activities such as clubbing, exclusive gay parties, street walking and the like. However, in Grindr, members may also subject themselves to rejections and sometimes humiliation that leads to impatience and lower once self-esteem. This can be observed from actual meet-ups that is totally different from the real time of communication from Grindr.

Findings of the study noted that in a particular certainty, Grindr caught and trapped the attention of other members with their physical attributes compared to that of actual dating. The interests of other Grindr member can be solicited from profiles, visuals, and conversations. Thus, college students revealed that not at all instances Grindr meets the desired outcome as well as purpose of satisfaction that an individual is expecting for from the gay dating applications.

On Grindr Communication and HIV Infection

Findings of the study showed that upon learning the HIV status of other members through their profiles, users tend to immediately decide to either avoid or engaged in furthering the Grindr communication. As mentioned, Grindr has feature that provides HIV status of members. To the college students, this shows that if Grindr is not concerned about HIV infection, Grindr would not include HIV status of members as part of the its feature.

Moreover, the findings of the study also showed that occasionally, Grindr uses pop-up infomercials on health communication. Infomercials such as news and features regarding HIV infection and global updates are being shared among members. Thus, college students felt that Grindr is responsible in informing users to do safe sex.

In addition, results of the study revealed that there are some Grindr users who created accounts to broaden HIV awareness and education. Though this is a voluntary initiative, the consciousness of college students with regard to how HIV can be transmitted among members widens once personal choice. Consequently, college students can ignore or accept HIV awareness being communicated through Grindr utilization.

On Particular Health Communication Topics on HIV

On particular health communication topics, key informants of the research shared their insights and were categorized. Basic knowledge as to the history of HIV as to the origin of the disease, how it was started as well as the transfer of the infection from one person to the other deemed important in the education of HIV. Adding to the HIV discussions will be the medical education that the future learners can gain from health communication subject.

Moreover, sex education would be coupled with moral education like chastity and abstinence. The promotion of true love revolution indeed can help prevent the spread of the infection. It is also important to discuss the dignity of human person, respect for self as well as respect for others. As such, sex education in concept is a concept of morality. Furthermore, sexual orientation and self expression should be understood further by an individual to embrace values and attitudes which are learned at every home.

The study showed that media in general can be an agent of HIV awareness through inclusions of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and the like. The use of technology as part of HIV awareness by exposing the rate of infection in a daily basis from the communications media is a useful tool in educating the college students. From this premise, college students can learn both global and local statistics of the HIV infection. They can gain some practical knowledge on how it affects the over-all quality of life of the infected individuals and their immediate family members.

Synthesis

The epidemic of HIV/AIDS is not only a present health problem in the Philippines, but it is one of the universal health issues the world is facing today. Among those who are greatly infected with the virus are those who belonged to the age bracket of 14 to 24. The young age of those who are enrolled in high school or college.

With the growth of technology through human invention, we cannot underestimate the consequences that it may bring to the lives of many young people who are keeping abreast with the changes and challenges of technologies. People nearby applications like Grindr had continuously giving the young minds an opportunity to take chances of what the technology can offer them—to discover their sexual identity and make sound choices.

The results generated from the study revealed that college students were not fully aware of the HIV infection until infected with the virus. The study simply interpreted the result that Grindr, as gay dating applications is not focusing on HIV, but heavily on gay dating. Though HIV awareness is visible in Grindr, the attitudes and values of college students subscribing Grindr implies high risk of getting HIV infection.

College students have different reasons with regard to the use of Grindr, but academic institutions have also the moral responsibility to educate their students to protect themselves from HIV infection and other diseases. Adding to some of the risks to human lives that the gay dating applications can contribute is societal problem our world and the world of the future generations will face.

While it is true that individual are the once who are crafting the course of their lives, it is also a must that they should understand and learned what is unlearned from the use of technology. Thus, this study calls those development communication scholars to address issues of technology use en route to HIV awareness.

Conclusion

The study concluded that in terms of the level of HIV awareness among the respondents when classified as to certain socio-demography, the level of HIV awareness among age group, year level, relationship status, and

Grindr purpose were the same. On the other hand, course as to science and non science as well as the sexual role of the respondents showed differing views on the level of HIV awareness.

As to the HIV knowledge respondents acquired during Grindr activities, the study concluded that Grindr helped HIV knowledge through applications feature that shows information and profile of users whether they are HIV infected or not. Though it is given that this can be true or untrue, the responsibility of Grindr in the knowledge of college students about HIV infection before engaging in sexual activities among members can be personally determined. Grindr also shows social and moral responsibility in protecting its members to be HIV infected by pop-up infomercial and other partner social networking sites. Respondents believed that Grindr is responsible in informing them to do safe sex which is a good formation of knowledge regarding HIV infection.

In the objective, mutual, and emotional fulfilment that respondents search for to accomplish when engaging in Grindr use, it is concluded that Grindr as a gay dating application has the ability to provide physical access to other users along with proximity and giving them options to choose from. Thus, Grindr offers a unique blend of what respondents wanted in meeting people in either offline or online dynamics.

Also, Grindr users expect to attain definite outcomes from the profile of other members which is like an advertisement, the better and attractive you look like, the higher the possibility of being snatched. It is also concluded that Grindr communicate to the consciousness of the college students regarding HIV infection that might be acquired through sexual activities.

Results showed that through the gay dating applications, respondents gained some practical knowledge to protect themselves from HIV infection and other health related diseases.

Also, results from the study revealed that Grindr users talk about safe sex which encouraged them to do the same. This research found out that students using Grindr require safe sex before meeting other members for sexual engagements.

Based from the responses that key informants shared, this study identified particular health communication topic/s on HIV that can be proposed through the National Service Training Program in a private university in Metro Manila. These are HIV history, HIV and medical education, HIV and moral education, use of technology in HIV awareness, and the economics of HIV. Specific and assigned sub-topics were also drafted as mentioned above by the key informants that are deemed helpful in HIV awareness among college students.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study and the conclusion drawn by the researcher from the findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

College Students

Communication and use of Grindr among college students in a private university towards HIV awareness should focus on one's sexual orientation than that of the others. From this premise, it can develop a wealth of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS that geared towards openness and sincerity to learn about health communication that will build up a sense of responsibility towards health communication learned from Grindr use.

Curriculum Provider

HIV awareness and education should be filtered among users from basic to a more complex learning depending on the students and their knowledge with regard to HIV. This study viewed that students have different perspectives regarding HIV and their view matters from one to the other. Thus, the study recommends that Grindr users who belonged to the science courses should help non-sciences courses to make HIV learning.

Government Institutions

The ability to involve parents as well as community in the students' learning to combat HIV infection through the use of people nearby application like Grindr within and even outside of a private university in Metro Manila

should be given serious attention among the pillars of government like the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Health.

Academic Institutions

Institutions of higher learning should continue their moral and intellectual contribution with regard to HIV awareness as key settings for educating college students about HIV/AIDS and to prevent the further spread of the HIV infection. Success in carrying out this function depends upon reaching young adults in time to reinforce positive health behaviors and alter the behaviors that place young people at risk.

Academic Managers

This study highly recommends utilizing and incorporating the HIV awareness topics in the National Service Training Program (NSTP) curricula to ensure maximum know-how of students towards HIV prevention as well as the spread of epidemics. It is also recommended that it is essential to utilize excellent resources for delivering effective education by providing skilled teachers, a multiplicity of knowledge opportunities in HIV awareness as well as accurate materials and teaching methodology.

Lecturers in the National Service Training Program

Training of HIV lecturers in the National Service Training Program can begin at teacher-training institutions, then can be followed up by in-service training, and can be further focused on particular groups within the education

sector such as curriculum developers and academic managers. Through their efforts, educators can scale up their preparedness and effectiveness as HIV prevention.

Educators of Health Related Subjects

For educators health related subjects to be able to teach human sexuality and HIV/AIDS prevention to students comfortably and competently, it is necessary that they be well trained, otherwise they will be at a disadvantage in dealing with populations at risk from HIV infection. This study recommends that educators of health education are encouraged to establish good rapport and communication with students. They should have the ability to conduct open, frank discussions as well as the ability to identify with students and show sensitivity. This can be attained by having respect for students and showing confidence in them.

Development Communication Practitioners

It is recommended that effective teaching methods employed in educating about HIV/AIDS prevention by development communication workers should have complexity in many subject areas. Development communication workers need to learn additional skills, instructional methods and models in order to effectively deliver school-based HIV/AIDS education using many different channels.

Future Researchers

While this research was accomplished on the basis of completing a Master of Development Communication degree at the University of the Philippines, the area of study in a larger scale is hereby recommended as major relevance to health communication not only in Metro Manila, but in the entire country as well. Let further study be made, to major population groups that are deemed at risk. There should be a study about materials and devices that can better help the prevention and spread, further review and research about promoting health awareness to non-science related courses in colleges and universities.

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Appendix A
CHED MEMORANDUM ON INTENSIFYING HIV/AIDS AWARENESS



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

TO : ALL CHEDRO DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE AND ALL PRESIDENTS/HEADS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

SUBJECT : INTENSIFYING HIV/AIDS AWARENESS IN ALL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

DATE : 12 MARCH 2018

In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722 "Higher Education Act of 1994," the Commission as one of the implementing agencies in compliance with RA 8504 "Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998" and as member of the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC), per Memorandum Circular No. 11, s. 2013 "Guidelines in the Implementation of Workplace Policy and Education Program on HIV and AIDS" issued by Civil Service Commission, and in line with the implementation of CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 09, s. 2013 "Enhanced Policies and Guidelines on Student Affairs and Services" specifically providing students in higher education institutions (HEIs) with organized, updated and readily available information on HIV/AIDS awareness; the Commission on Higher Education hereby enjoins all higher education institutions (HEIs) to develop mechanisms in ensuring an increased knowledge on HIV transmission and prevention.

The Department of Health Epidemiology Bureau (DOH-EB) reports says that two out of three new HIV infections are occurring among 15-24 years old. UNAIDS says that the Philippines has become the country with the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the world and one of the eight countries that account for more than 90% of new HIV infections in Asia and the Pacific.

Submit report of semestral activities on the subject above using the prescribed template to the CHED Regional Offices concerned for consolidation and submission to the CHED Central Office. You may submit your reports to the Office of Student Development and Services (OSDS) through email address osds@ched.gov.ph.



MAR 25 2018

Higher Education Development Center Building, C.P. Garcia Ave., UP Central Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA, III, OPA
Officer-in-Charge
Commission on Higher Education

Appendix B
CHED ENDORSEMENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIV



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

FOR : ALL CHED CENTRAL AND REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTORS ALL PRESIDENTS/ HEADS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HIEIs)

SUBJECT : PARTICIPATION IN THE 2016 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH COMMUNICATION: MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH ON HIV/AIDS AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION OF THE TRINITY UNIVERSITY OF ASIA TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 18-19, 2016 AT THE TRINITY UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AUDITORIUM

DATE : November 14, 2016

In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (R.A.) 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994", this Office hereby endorses the above undertaking organized by the Trinity University of Asia for the support and participation of all concerned.

This activity will be attended by interested students and faculty members from higher education institutions.

Participation of officials, employees and students from private higher education institutions (HIEIs) shall be VOLUNTARY. Officials and employees of State and Local Universities and Colleges (SUCs and LUCs) who will participate in this activity should obtain prior approval from the President/Head of their respective institutions and are hereby reminded to observe proper use of government funds in accordance with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) National Budget Circular No. 486 and Administrative Order No. 103.

For registration and further information/inquiries, you may coordinate with the organizers through their telephone number (02) 3489055 or their email address whyudelmo@tua.edu.ph.

Wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

PATRICIA B. LICUANAN, Ph.D.

H-014-053_Trinity_2016

Appendix C
QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION PROGRAM
Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences
University of the Philippines Open University
Los Baños, Laguna

Dear Respondents:

I am presently conducting a research study entitled "Communication and Use of Grindr in HIV Awareness among College Students in a University" as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree, Master of Development Communication.

The study has the objectives (1) to interpret the relationship of demographic profile of the respondents using Grindr on their level of HIV awareness; (2) to illustrate the level of awareness on HIV among college students of Trinity University of Asia using Grindr; (3) to interpret the exact objective, mutual, and emotional fulfilment do the respondents search for to accomplish when engaging in Grindr use; (4) to measure the role of Grindr on the consciousness of college students regarding HIV infection that they can acquire through sexual activities' and (5) to identify what particular health communication topic on HIV can be proposed in the National Service Training Program of Trinity University of Asia.

In this regard, please answer the research material as honestly as possible. Your responses to the questions will be treated with extreme confidentiality. Thank you very much for your involvement.

Very respectfully yours,

WALTER H. YUDELMO
Master of Development Communication Thesis Student
whyudelmo@up.edu.ph

PART 1: Respondents Profile

YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS OPTIONAL

Name	
Address	
Contact Number	
Email Address	

YOUR COLLEGIATE PROFILE IS IMPORTANT (Do not leave any unanswered space.)

Age	
Year Level	
Course	
College where you belong	

YOUR GRINDR PROFILE IS IMPORTANT (Do not leave any unanswered space.)

Position as to (as shown in Grindr app)	Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Top <input type="checkbox"/> Versa Top <input type="checkbox"/> Versatile <input type="checkbox"/> Versa Bottom <input type="checkbox"/> Bottom
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Status as to (as shown in Grindr app)	Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Committed <input type="checkbox"/> Dating <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged <input type="checkbox"/> Exclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Open Relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Partnered <input type="checkbox"/> Single
In using Grindr, you are looking for?	Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime partner <input type="checkbox"/> Instant sex partner <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify)

YOUR GRINDR ACTIVITY IS IMPORTANT (Do not leave any unanswered space.)

What are your Grindr activities?	Please check as many as you can: <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Contact <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship <input type="checkbox"/> Chat mate <input type="checkbox"/> Phone pal <input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution <input type="checkbox"/> Service (massage, male escort, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Selling (food, gadgets, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Announcements (for rent, party, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify)
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PART 2: Respondents Level of HIV Awareness*

*Carey, M. P., Morrison-Beedy, D. and Johnson, B. T. (1997). The HIV-Knowledge Questionnaire: Development and evaluation of a reliable, valid, and practical self administered questionnaire. *AIDS and Behavior*, 1, 61-74.

Please put a (/) tick mark on the space corresponding to your awareness of HIV using the following numbers and answers as your basis. If you do not know, please do not guess; instead, please tick (/) I Don't Know.

- 1 for True
- 2 for False
- 3 for I don't know

	HIV Awareness:	1	2	3
1	HIV and AIDS is the same thing.			
2	Athletes who share needles when using steroids can get HIV from the needles.			
3	A person can get HIV if having oral sex.			
4	It is possible to get HIV when a person gets a tattoo.			
5	A pregnant woman with HIV can give the virus to her unborn baby.			
6	Pulling out the penis before a man climaxes/cums keeps a partner from getting HIV during sex.			
7	A person can get HIV through anal sex.			
8	Showering, or washing one's genitals/private parts, after sex keeps a person from getting HIV.			
9	Using a latex condom or rubber can lower a person's chance of getting HIV.			
10	A person with HIV can look and feel healthy.			

11	People who have been infected with HIV quickly show serious signs of being infected.			
12	A person can be infected with HIV for 5 years or more without getting AIDS.			
13	There is a vaccine that can stop adults from getting HIV.			
14	Some drugs have been made for the treatment of AIDS.			
15	A person can get HIV even if he has sex with another person only one time.			
16	You are likely to get HIV by deep kissing, putting their tongue in their partner's mouth, if partner has HIV.			
17	You can usually tell if someone has HIV by looking at them.			
18	A person will NOT get HIV if he is taking antibiotics.			
19	Taking a test for HIV one week after having sex will tell a person if she or he has HIV.			
20	If a person tests positive for HIV, then the test center will have to reveal the status in public.			

PART 3: HIV AWARENESS OF GRINDR USERS

Please put a (/) tick mark on the space corresponding to your assessment of the variables and indicators mentioned below using the following scale as your basis:

- 5 for Strongly Agree
- 4 for Moderately Agree
- 3 for Neither Agree nor Disagree
- 2 for Disagree
- 1 for Strongly Disagree

The response that is most important or true for you should receive a 5 (five); the next should receive a four (4); the next should receive a three (3); the next should receive a two (2); and the least important or least true to you should receive a one (1).

3.1 HIV Awareness from Grindr Activities

Scale as your basis:

- 5 for Strongly Agree
- 4 for Moderately Agree
- 3 for Neither Agree nor Disagree
- 2 for Disagree
- 1 for Strongly Disagree

	HIV Awareness:	5	4	3	2	1
1	I am aware that engaging in unsafe sex can make me HIV infected.					
2	Grindr users talk about safe sex which helped me to do the same.					
3	I am knowledgeable enough HIV even before joining Grindr.					
4	Grindr had helped me be informed about HIV through exchange of conversations.					
5	People I met in Grindr would always remind me of safe sex.					
6	Grindr members provide relative information about HIV infection.					
7	HIV is an infection that I can acquire through Grindr sexual activities.					
8	Grindr members require safe sex before meeting for fun.					
9	I am aware that in meeting Grindr members, I should do safe sex to protect myself from HIV.					
10	Grindr had helped me gain some practical knowledge to protect myself from HIV.					

3.2 Grindr Engagements

Scale as your basis:

- 5 for Strongly Agree
- 4 for Moderately Agree
- 3 for Neither Agree nor Disagree
- 2 for Disagree
- 1 for Strongly Disagree

	Grindr Engagements:	5	4	3	2	1
1	Grindr helps me to fulfill my physical, social, and emotional needs.					
2	Grindr helps me to discover my personal crises and sexual identities.					
3	Grindr helps me keep my identity while having fun and engagements with others.					
4	Grindr develops connections among its users that lead to more intense relationship.					
5	Grindr engages me to Internet addiction like watching pornography.					
6	Grindr didn't threaten my personal views of choosing how to manage my personal secrets.					
7	Grindr helps me chase my wildest fantasy in a secretive manner when I am lonely.					
8	Grindr offers a unique blend of what I want in meeting people in an offline and online dynamics.					
9	Grindr has the ability to provide physical access to other users along with proximity.					
10	Grindr users expect to attain definite outcomes from the profile of other members.					

3.3 HIV Consciousness provided by Grindr Application

Scale as your basis:

- 5 for Strongly Agree
- 4 for Moderately Agree
- 3 for Neither Agree nor Disagree
- 2 for Disagree
- 1 for Strongly Disagree

HIV Consciousness:		5	4	3	2	1
1	Grindr is responsible in informing users to do safe sex.					
2	Information and profile of users would always be a priority of Grindr if they are HIV infected.					
3	Grindr can be viewed as dating and business app with less concern on HIV infection.					
4	Relative information regarding HIV is being provided by Grindr.					
5	Grindr finds way to inform the public users about HIV condition of their members.					
6	Warning on HIV infection while meeting strangers can be found in Grindr.					
7	Grindr supports individual or group campaigns with regard to HIV.					
8	Informing member's HIV infection is an option to disclose in Grindr.					
9	Grindr shows social and moral responsibility in protecting its members to be HIV infected.					
10	Stories of members on how they acquire HIV infection is being shared on Grindr.					

Appendix D
DEVELOPED RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

Carey, M. P., Morrison-Beedy, D. and Johnson, B. T. (1997). The HIV-Knowledge Questionnaire: Development and evaluation of a reliable, valid, and practical self administered questionnaire (extracted from 45 item version). *AIDS and Behavior*, 1, pp. 61-74.

Answer Key

1. HIV and AIDS are the same thing.

Answer: False

2. Athletes who share needles when using steroids can get HIV from the needles.

Answer: True

3. A person can get HIV if having oral sex.

Answer: True

4. It is possible to get HIV when a person gets a tattoo.

Answer: True

5. A pregnant woman with HIV can give the virus to her unborn baby.

Answer: True

6. Pulling out the penis before a man climaxes/cums keeps a partner from getting HIV during sex.

Answer: False

7. A person can get HIV through anal sex.

Answer: True

8. Showering, or washing one's genitals/private parts, after sex keeps a person from getting HIV.

Answer: False

9. Using a latex condom or rubber can lower a person's chance of getting HIV.

Answer: True

10. A person with HIV can look and feel healthy.

Answer: True

11. People who have been infected with HIV quickly show serious signs of being infected.

Answer: False

12. A person can be infected with HIV for 5 years or more without getting AIDS.

Answer: True

13. There is a vaccine that can stop adults from getting HIV.

Answer: False

14. Some drugs have been made for the treatment of AIDS.

Answer: True

15. A person can get HIV even if he has sex with another person only one time.

Answer: True

16. People are likely to get HIV by deep kissing, putting their tongue in their partner's mouth, if their partner has HIV.

Answer: False

17. You can usually tell if someone has HIV by looking at them.

Answer: False

18. A person will NOT get HIV if he is taking antibiotics.

Answer: False

19. Taking a test for HIV one week after having sex will tell a person if she or he has HIV.

Answer: False

20. If a person tests positive for HIV, then the test center will have to reveal the status in public.

Answer: False

Appendix E
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

To answer Statement of the Problem Number 1:

1. What is the level of HIV awareness among the respondents when classified as to respondent-related factors?
 - 1.1 Why do you think that the young Filipinos, using Grindr have differing views towards HIV infection?
 - 1.2 Can you share some reasons why the constant use of Grindr is similar to the cumulative level of HIV awareness?
 - 1.3 Why do you think that Grindr can be used as a tool in promoting HIV awareness?

To answer Statement of the Problem Number 2:

2. What specific HIV awareness the respondents acquire during Grindr activities?
 - 2.1 What is the role of technology like Grindr among the youth of today in HIV awareness?
 - 2.2 How can Grindr affect the attitude and personal views of students towards HIV awareness?
 - 2.3 What can be the best way to inform future users of Grindr in protecting themselves against HIV infection?

To answer Statement of the Problem Number 3:

3. What is the exact objective, mutual, and emotional fulfilment that the respondents search for to accomplish when engaging in Grindr use?

3.1 What personal satisfaction do users get from Grindr vis-a-vis HIV awareness?

3.2 What can be the HIV awareness outcome as well as accomplishments of students in using Grindr?

3.3 What do you think are the challenges of introducing HIV awareness (health communication subject) in NSTP coming from Grindr use?

To answer Statement of the Problem Number 4:

4. How Grindr communicate on the consciousness of the college students regarding HIV infection that they can acquire through sexual activities?

4.1 What are the consequences of introducing HIV awareness (health communication subject) in NSTP?

4.2 Why Grindr stimulate sexual behaviour among users without knowing its implications in their human health?

4.3 How Grindr communicate students' consciousness regarding HIV infection that can possibly derived from sexual activities?

To answer Statement of the Problem Number 5:

5. What particular health communication topic on HIV can be proposed through the National Service Training Program in a university in Metro Manila?

5.1 What are some important topics that can be included in HIV awareness (health communication subject) in NSTP?

5.2 What are the advantages of introducing HIV awareness (health communication subject) in NSTP?

5.3 What are the disadvantages of introducing HIV awareness (health communication subject) in NSTP?